

1) Why has truck traffic increased on Foothill and Stevens Creek Blvds.

In the summer of 2018, Lehigh began an effort to widen an existing fire access road between their quarry and the Stevens Creek Quarry. In August 2018 the Santa Clara County Planning issued a Notice of Violation to Lehigh and directed Lehigh to stop widening efforts and prohibited Lehigh from using the access road for the transportation of materials. With this access road no longer available, Lehigh and Stevens Creek Quarry began transporting the materials over City streets. This is the cause of the increased truck traffic.

The Notice of Violation issued to Lehigh by the County is here:

https://www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/DocsForms/Documents/2250_NOV_20180817.pdf

2) What types of trucks are allowed? Is there a regulatory framework that limits vehicle size and weight? What hours are trucks allowed to operate? Is there a limit as to maximum number of vehicles per day.

The types of trucks allowed on City streets is determined by Division 15 of the California Vehicle Code. The code can be found here:

http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=VEH&division=15.&title=&part=&chapter=&article=

The times that the trucks are operating is generally from 7am-4pm Monday through Friday. Regarding a regulation limiting the number of trucks, both Lehigh and Stevens Creek Quarry have a maximum number of trucks that can enter/exit their facilities. Per the County, even with the increased number of trucks running, both Lehigh and Stevens Creek Quarry are well under their limit.

3) How many vehicles are currently operating?

At the Neighborhood Meeting date of December 19, 2018 approximately 40 trucks were running. The quarries are reporting that currently 27 trucks are running.

4) Can City prohibit trucks from turning right from EB Stevens Creek to SB Foothill? Can right turns be restricted during certain hours such as school commute hours?

The City cannot by ordinance or otherwise prohibit and/or restrict by time this turning movement. The City has had the Sheriff monitor the intersection to insure that this turning movement is safe. This monitoring will continue until the intersection is either reconfigured or until the increased truck traffic ends.

5) Can the trucks be prohibited during start/end time of school and/or during the morning commute?

The City is not able to prohibit the trucks and upon follow up with the quarries after the December 19, 2019 Neighborhood Meeting, the quarries are not willing to accommodate this request.

6) Does increased traffic justify reviewing/reconsidering existing licenses and permits?

The County is reviewing an Amended Reclamation Plan that was submitted by Lehigh that may allow Lehigh to use the existing access road instead of City streets. The 2018 Minor Reclamation Plan Amendment for Haul Road can be viewed here:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Programs/SMARA/PermanenteQuarry/Pages/PermanenteMain.aspx>

Based on the input received at the December 19, 2018 Neighborhood Meeting, many opinions were given that questioned the County on what basis the transport of material from Lehigh to Stevens Creek Quarry should be allowed. The County has not taken action on the amended plan or indicated that the current activity causing the increased truck traffic is cause to review and/or reconsider existing permits.

7) Will trucks be forced off of City streets when the new on-site haul road is complete?

That would be the intent but the City would not be able to force legal trucks off of public streets.

8) Can something be done regarding the tight right turn at southwest corner of Foothill and Stevens Creek

The City's Transportation Manager is looking at various options and as they are developed, these options will be shared. The existing utility pole, existing traffic signal pole and the City not having the needed property to widen the road are all challenges. Options that are being evaluated that are not affected by these challenges include reconfiguration of pavement markings and/or the installation of more visible line dividers.

9) What can be done to improve safety at highway on ramps. Large trucks moving slowly make it difficult to merge with traffic. Is there coordination with CHP regarding truck traffic?

The Sheriff and the CHP do coordinate on truck issues at the Foothill Blvd / Hwy 280 interchange.

10) What is being done to enforce traffic rules for trucks going up to Stevens Creek Quarry?

The City has had the Sheriff increase monitoring and enforcement action.

11) Why do we share burden of increased traffic with Stevens Creek Quarry and Lehigh? Can quarry be forced to more effectively monitor truck ingress/egress?

The City is not able to prohibit the trucks from operating on City streets unless the vehicles and/or operators are in violation of a vehicle code. To date the Sheriff has reported few instances of vehicle code violations. The City is in discussion with both Lehigh and Stevens Creek Quarry to reduce the number of trucks/reduce congestion at the Stevens Creek & Foothill Blvd intersection on a voluntary basis. The City is also reviewing "Codes of Conduct" that quarries in other urban areas utilize to better manage trucks entering and existing their facilities. The City will encourage the quarries to adopt similar codes of conduct as needed.

12) Has County renewed Stevens Creek Quarry's Use permit? Are permits discretionary?

At the December 19, 2019 Neighborhood Meeting the County described Stevens Creek Quarry as operating on a conditional permit. The City is not aware of a change in this status. The conditions of a permit are at the discretion (provided that they are in accordance to applicable rules) of the County. Stevens Creek Quarry does not have vested rights. As a result, permits are issued to cover finite periods of time and are subject to change with each permitting cycle.

13) Can County allow use of the unpermitted internal haul road while new road is being constructed?

The County indicated at the December 19, 2019 Neighborhood Meeting that they would not consider this use on a temporary basis.

14) Can the County prohibit the Quarry from moving material until the new road is constructed?

Based on the comments made by the County at the December 19, 2019 Neighborhood Meeting this does not appear to be an option.

15) Has City considered allowing use of PG&E haul road and unpermitted haul road to alleviate impacts on City streets?

Not formally. The City is waiting for the County to make a determination on the 2018 Minor Reclamation Plan Amendment for Haul Road as submitted by Lehigh. Once this occurs, the City will know if Lehigh has permission to use the existing access road on the County portion and will be in a better position to evaluate if a similar use is could occur on the portion of the access road within City jurisdiction.

16) Who has regulatory authority over Stevens Creek Quarry and Lehigh Cement Plant?

Santa Clara County and the California Department of Conservation for the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) requirements.

17) Can the City require the trucks to be covered (tarped)?

As long as the transported material is below the top of the material bin, the City is not able to require a cover. After the December 19, 2019 Neighborhood Meeting the quarries agreed to cover each load on a truck that is equipped with a self-covering device. At this time, it is not known how many of the 27 trucks running have a self-coving device.

18) Can more sweeping be done to keep the street clean?

After the December 19, 2019 Neighborhood Meeting the quarries agreed to have a full time sweeper running whenever the trucks are running.