

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION No. 2023-15

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED I-80 SOUTH QUARRY OPEN-PIT MINE

WHEREAS, the Central Wasatch Commission (the “CWC”) is an interlocal entity formed in 2017 whose principal purpose is to better assure the wise stewardship of the Wasatch mountain range (the “*Central Wasatch*”) in Salt Lake, Summit and Wasatch counties, which receives over nine million visitors per year—more than all of Utah’s national parks combined; and

WHEREAS, the CWC’s governing board (the “*Board*”) includes the mayors of Salt Lake City, Millcreek City, Sandy City, Cottonwood Heights, Alta, Brighton, and Park City and a member of the Summit County Council, as well as leaders of governmental service providers in and adjacent to the Central Wasatch; and

WHEREAS, the CWC also includes a 35-member advisory Stakeholders Council representing economic, environmental, recreation, transportation, and community interests along both geographical sides of the Central Wasatch; and

WHEREAS, the CWC’s core values include preserving and protecting the critical resources of the Central Wasatch—including its watershed, recreational areas and natural beauty—so that future generations can continue to benefit from that wonderful and integral part of Utah’s natural environment; and

WHEREAS, in or about November 2021 an application was filed with the Utah Department of Oil, Gas and Mining by or on behalf of Tree Farm LLC and Granite Construction (collectively, “*Granite*”) for an open-pit limestone quarrying and mining operation (the “*Quarry*”) in the area northeast of Grandeur Peak and southwest of Mount Aire, approximately two miles from the mouth of Parley’s Canyon; and

WHEREAS, although Granite currently is pursuing a permit for a 20-acre Quarry, public statements by Granite’s attorneys, coupled with Granite’s recent efforts to amend Utah’s applicable mining statutes, make it clear that Granite’s long-term goal is for the Quarry to include at least 635 acres; and

WHEREAS, if excavated, the proposed Quarry will permanently scar the Central Wasatch mountains, leaving residents, those who visit the Central Wasatch to enjoy its natural beauty and to recreate, and wildlife with degraded mountainsides and habitat, including deteriorating the prominent greenbelt gateway between the Salt Lake Valley and the world-class tourist and Olympic destinations in Summit County; and

WHEREAS, despite Granite’s agreement to meet the minimum standards established by Utah’s Division of Air Quality, additional mining emissions from the proposed Quarry will have a material negative impact on regional air quality and public health by adding harmful particulates to the airshed; and

WHEREAS, fugitive dust emissions from the proposed open-air Quarry also could

contaminate and hasten the natural melting cycle of the Central Wasatch's snowpack, thereby harming the near-by protected, regional watershed and neighboring reservoirs providing culinary water to at least 360,000 citizens, affecting regional air quality, and otherwise diminishing the quality of life in the region and posing a threat to the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Salt Lake Valley and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the added demand for water usage at the Quarry also will increase the strain on the region's water system and its customers and divert water from the seriously-threatened Great Salt Lake ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Quarry lies within the CWC's geographical area of interest, and because the CWC's core values include preserving and protecting the critical resources of the Central Wasatch, and the fact that the Board's members have become increasingly concerned about the proposed open-air mine's negative impacts on the air quality, watershed, visitor experience, scenic quality, recreation opportunities, and native wildlife, on 7 August 2023 the Board met in regular session to consider, among other things, expressing opposition to the proposed Quarry; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the CWC and its constituents to so act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Central Wasatch Commission that the CWC hereby expresses its strong opposition to the proposed Quarry and any other such open-air mine in the Central Wasatch, and encourages all governmental entities with jurisdiction over and input into the approval process for the proposed mine to act in a manner that will preserve and protect the critical resources of the Central Wasatch to the greatest extent legally possible; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Central Wasatch Commission that although population growth along the Wasatch Front will require new sources of raw construction materials, the Board believes that the site selection process for appropriate sources of such materials should be the result of a thorough, thoughtful public planning process that independently evaluates where these materials will be needed and the economic, environmental, public health, and property impacts of the various siting options to minimize or avoid the types of significant negative impacts posed by the proposed Quarry.

This Resolution, assigned no. 2023-15, shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of August 2023.

ATTEST:

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

By: _____
Jeff Silvestrini, Secretary

By: _____
Christopher F. Robinson, Chair of the Board

VOTING OF THE BOARD:

Roger Bourke	Yea ___	Nay ___
Dan Knopp	Yea ___	Nay ___
Erin Mendenhall	Yea ___	Nay ___
Christopher Robinson	Yea ___	Nay ___
Jeff Silvestrini	Yea ___	Nay ___
Michael Weichers	Yea ___	Nay ___
Nann Worel	Yea ___	Nay ___
Monica Zoltanski	Yea ___	Nay ___

DEPOSITED in the office of the Secretary this 7th day of August 2023.

FILED AND RECORDED this __ day of August 2023.