



# CARRQ UPDATE

Citizens Advocating Roblar Rural Quality    March 2011  
200 Vlaardinggen Lane, Petaluma, CA 94952    [www.carrq.org](http://www.carrq.org)  
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## CARRQ TAKES FIGHT TO PRESERVE WEST COUNTY TO COURT

December 14, 2010 the Board of Supervisors pushed through the approval of the Roblar Road quarry on a 3-2 vote. Mike Kerns and Paul Kelley, lame duck supervisors, and Valerie Brown voted for it. Supervisors Carrillo and Zane voted against the project.

By the same vote, the supervisors also approved the controversial use of an Open Space conservation easement on a neighboring property to be used by the developer to mitigate against habitat destruction of California Tiger salamanders and red-legged frogs. CARRQ believes this "interpretation" to allow a non-agricultural commercial use on the easement is not permitted and may establish a dangerous precedent diminishing the permanence of open space conservation easements.

On January 13, CARRQ filed suit against the County and quarry owners John and Andrea Barella challenging the County's approval of the gravel mine and asphalt recycling operation as a violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We have been joined on this suit by Friends of Americano Creek.

CARRQ and local dairy owners Joe and Kathy Tresch and Ken and Nancy Mazzetta then filed suit January 27 against Sonoma County and the Sonoma County Agricultural and Preservation Open Space District challenging the Board's "interpretation" of the conservation easement to benefit a private commercial business.

Settlement conferences have been held in both cases as per CEQA requirements. No agreements were reached and both cases are proceeding. CARRQ's attorney believes the quarry lawsuit could take 2-3 years to resolve.

***We need your help! Make a tax deductible donation to CARRQ today***

**We need to raise money to continue the fight to protect West Sonoma County's rural land.** We are represented pro bono by a San Francisco law firm, but we must raise money to pay for documentation and other court expenses. We are working to secure tax exempt status from the IRS. Until we receive that, make your tax deductible donations to our fiscal sponsor, the Paula Lane Action Network (P.L.A.N.) Make your tax deductible donation by check to P.L.A.N. (put "CARRQ" in the memo line) and send to: Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN), P.O. Box 2903, Petaluma, CA 94953

To donate online using PayPal go to:  
<http://paulalaneactionnetwork.org/donations.html>.

Or, send a donation to CARRQ at  
200 Vlaardinggen Lane, Petaluma,  
CA 94952.

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## WE'RE STILL WORKING!

Despite the supervisor's vote in December to allow the Roblar Road quarry project and the 'interpretation' of the open space easement that enables the quarry, CARRQ members are continuing our work to fight the quarry decision and question the Open Space easement decision. For example, members are:

- Raising money to offset costs of preparing documents for the two lawsuits and to expand community outreach
- Speaking at meetings of the Open Space District's Citizens Advisory Council to demand they develop a mitigation policy
- Continuing to build coalitions with local ranchers, farmers and environmental organizations locally and around the state
- Pursuing answers from federal and state agencies regarding the status of the quarry owner's applications for Tiger salamander habitat mitigation
- Organizing to monitor the quarry's 169 Conditions of Approval imposed by the county

## CARRQ Receives Grant from Rose Foundation Environmental Fund

CARRQ is honored to have received in March a \$4,000 grant from the Rose Foundation Environmental Grassroots Fund to help expand our work to raise the community's awareness about the assault our County government is waging on our rural land. The Rose Foundation was founded in 1992 to support community-based projects and organizations that are building long-term solutions that benefit people, the environment and the economy.

CARRQ is indebted to Susan Kirks, director of the Paula Lane Action Network, for her assistance in our application process. We also thank Nancy Graalman, director, In Defense of Place; Bill Kortum, founder of Sonoma County Conservation Action and Cotati Councilmember Mark Landman for their endorsement of CARRQ.

To learn more about the Rose Foundation go to: (<http://www.rosefdn.org/index.php>)

## Jeopardizing Taxpayer Investment in Open Space

*“The board (of supervisors) agreed to cover some of the developer’s costs of doing business. By doing so, it has made a gift of our sales-tax-dollars to benefit a private individual. It is not hard to imagine other developers lining up to receive a similar subsidy.”*

*Ted Eliot*

Ted Eliot, co-chair of the 2006 Measure F campaign, wrote an informative article about the County's interpretation of existing conservation easements that could jeopardize the public's support of the Open Space District and threaten public investment in protecting open space and agricultural land in Sonoma County.

To read the full article in the Madrone Audubon Society's March 2011 "Madrone Leaves" newsletter go to: <http://www.audubon.sonoma.net/> .

Tell the Open Space District General Manager Bill Keene to quit playing politics and establish a habitat mitigation policy. Attend the next meeting of the District's Citizens Advisory Council, April 28, at 5:30 p.m. to speak out. For the meeting agenda and location go to: <http://www.sonomaopenspace.org/> .

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## Post a Sign! Spread the Word!

If you've driven down Roblar Road, Blank Road, Bloomfield Road, Valley Ford Road, Pepper Road, Gravenstein Hwy, or other roads around the West County, you've seen the various designs of "No Quarry" signs posted by property owners in the years and months before the supervisors voted to approve the quarry project. Most property owners have left their signs up in protest of that decision. CARRQ is about to add updated smaller signs to the existing ones to let passersby know we are still fighting for the integrity of our rural and agricultural land. If you can post a new sign on your property, please contact us at [www.carrq.org](http://www.carrq.org). Thanks!



We're still fighting! [www.carrq.org](http://www.carrq.org)