

**MAYOR BOB KELLAR
SOLEDAD CANYON MINE ACT
INTRODUCTION PRESS CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008**

GOOD MORNING. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON ANOTHER BANNER DAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY. ON BEHALF OF THE SANTA CLARITA CITY COUNCIL, THANK YOU CONGRESSMAN McKEON FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN SPONSORING THE SOLEDAD CANYON MINE ACT.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, WE WERE FIGHTING A MINING PROJECT IN SOLEDAD CANYON. TODAY – THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF CONGRESSMAN McKEON AND OTHERS -- WE STAND SIDE BY SIDE WITH CEMEX TO PROUDLY APPLAUD THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS BILL.

THIS IMPORTANT PIECE OF LEGISLATION IS A “WIN-WIN-WIN” SOLUTION FOR ALL INVOLVED. NO LONGER WOULD WE FACE THE POTENTIAL OF MINING IN SOLEDAD CANYON. SOLEDAD CANYON WOULD BE PROTECTED AS OPEN SPACE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. AND CEMEX WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE FAIR COMPENSATION FOR ITS CONTRACTS WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

IN CRAFTING THIS BILL, CONGRESSMAN McKEON PROVED GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. BY DEVOTING HIS EFFORTS TO SEEING THIS BILL THROUGH CONGRESS AND ONTO THE PRESIDENT'S DESK, CONGRESSMAN McKEON WILL ACHIEVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SANTA CLARITA.

SANTA CLARITA HAS BEEN RATED ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN THE COUNTRY BECAUSE QUALITY OF LIFE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PARAMOUNT FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY. CONGRESSMAN McKEON'S BILL WILL SAFEGUARD OUR CHERISHED QUALITY OF LIFE. WITH THIS BILL'S PASSAGE, WE WILL NEVER AGAIN NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE THREATS A SAND AND GRAVEL MINE WOULD BRING TO OUR BORDERS BECAUSE WITH THIS BILL'S PASSAGE, MINING WILL NEVER AGAIN BE ALLOWED IN SOLEDAD CANYON.

THE RESIDENTS OF SANTA CLARITA HAVE LONG REJECTED THE PROPOSED MINING PROJECT IN SOLEDAD CANYON. OUR COMMUNITY'S CONCERNS WITH THE SIZE OF THE AGGREGATE MINE, AIR POLLUTION AND THE INCREASED TRAFFIC THE MINE WOULD BRING OUR REGION RESULTED IN A NEARLY DECADE-LONG DISAGREEMENT WITH CEMEX.

IN FEBRUARY OF 2007, WE AGREED WITH CEMEX TO CALL A HALT TO NEGATIVE RHETORIC SO THAT WE COULD WORK TOGETHER TOWARD FINDING A SOLUTION. THE SOLEDAD CANYON MINE ACT IS THAT SOLUTION.

WE THANK CEMEX FOR AGREEING TO COME TO THE TABLE AND WORK HARD OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS ON THIS ISSUE. WE THANK THE CITY OF VICTORVILLE FOR ITS WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SOLUTION. MOST OF ALL, WE THANK CONGRESSMAN McKEON, WHOSE LEADERSHIP BROUGHT US HERE TODAY AND WHOSE CONTINUED COMMITMENT WILL SEE THE SOLEDAD CANYON MINE ACT SIGNED INTO LAW.

THANK YOU CONGRESSMAN McKEON FOR THIS -- A WINNING SOLUTION FOR ALL CONCERNED.