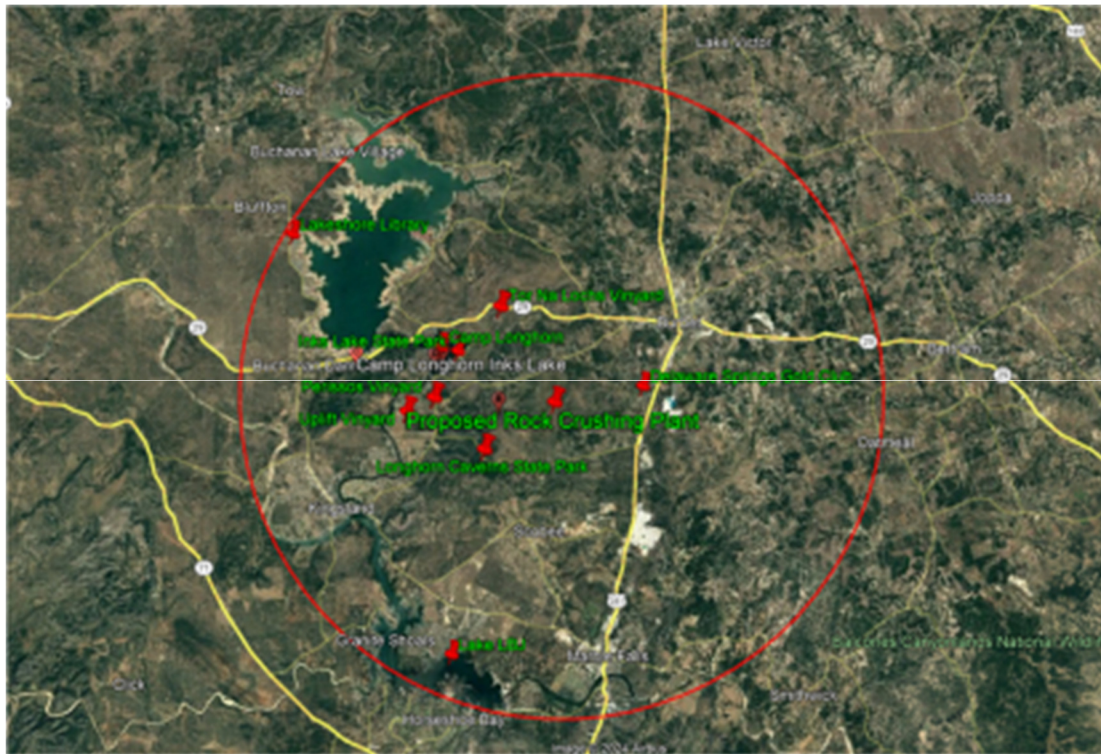




To: Brian Burkitt, Water Quality Protection
From: The Lake Buchanan Communities Alliance (LBCA)
Re: Permit Application # 2024-5606 U0
Date: February 24, 2025
Dear Mr. Burkitt,

We would like to thank you for your letter of January 31, 2025 to Mr. Curt Campbell outlining your questions concerning Burnet Quarry Application #2024-5606 U0. You raised some legitimate concerns that we at LBCA would like to see addressed.

The reason for this letter is to express our deep distress over the above permit application. Our concerns are illustrated below.



Pins:
Center:
Proposed Plant
Clockwise from below:
Longhorn Caverns
Uplift Vineyards
Perissos Vineyards
Inks Lake State Park
Camp Longhorn
Delaware Springs
Lake Buchanan
Inks Lake
Lake LBJ
Not shown:
Camp Buckner – 4.5 miles away.

As you can see, the proposed location is directly in the middle of one of the most environmentally sensitive areas in the Highland Lakes region. The red circle represents a 12-mile radius around the proposed site. A sampling of what we hold most dear to our homelands is within that circle. Just a few of the parallel concerns we have are:

- We have been in a severe drought for more than a decade. For example, since 2011, Lake Buchanan has only reached the full level once - in 2018.
- Many residents in the area are reporting issues with dried up or slowing water wells.
- Over 45% of the wells on FM 3509 have experienced significant water level drop or have gone dry.

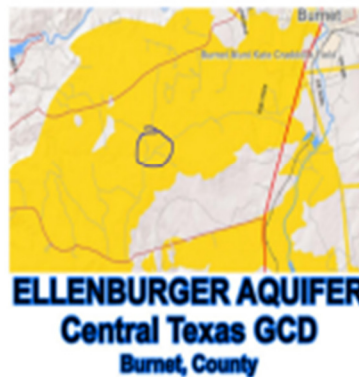


- While citizens in the highland lakes area are being asked to conserve water (and are doing so), this rock crushing plant is estimated to use between 648,000 to 9 MILLION gallons of water per MONTH.
- It is quite possible that the dynamite explosions could cause irreparable harm to the area water ecosystem.
- Seismic activity can cause sudden changes in groundwater levels due to the shifting of rock along the fault, potentially leading to wells running dry or to experiencing sudden influxes of water depending on the movement direction.
- Faulting can introduce new contaminants into the aquifer by fracturing the rock and exposing previously isolated pockets of water with different chemical compositions.

Rock Crushing Plant – Water

A typical family will use 5,600 gallons of water a month. A Rock Crushing plant will use about **50,000 gallons per day or 1.5M per month** which is **equivalent to over 265 families per month.**

- No requirement to use recycled water
- Water table will be affected, many in our neighborhood struggle to pump enough water now
- The Rock Crushing plant and all the neighbors will be drawing from the Ellenburger Aquifer



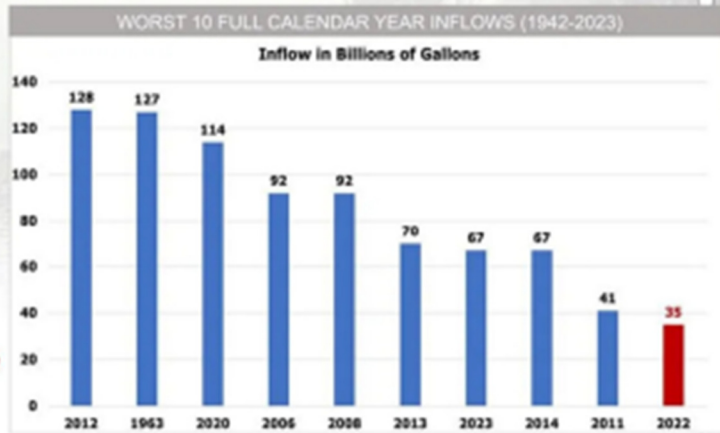
Credit: Save Burnet

As noted above, rock crushing plants need copious amounts of water for their operation. This proposal, if approved, would undeniably tax an already stressed groundwater system. Even now residents in the area struggle to get their pumps to produce needed water. This presents not only drinking water issues, but also the imminent danger of wildfire ignition. And, little discussion has been offered about what to do with the effluent from this proposed plant which has the potential to foul our water supply as well as impact the Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery.

Currently the two reservoirs in the Highland Lakes system are at 51% capacity. They've only been at 100% in 3 of the last 20 years. The chart below, from the Central Texas Water Coalition, illustrates that the surface water in the area is in even worse shape than the groundwater situation. The year 2022 was the worst on record in terms of inflows into the Highland Lakes. In 2023 the 4th worst inflows on record were recorded. Please keep in mind that the Highland Lakes systems of ground and surface water provides water for agriculture as well as drinking water for the Austin, Round Rock and Georgetown metro area - over 1 million people and growing. This absolutely critical resource must be used wisely and remain clean and pure.

2022 Inflows Were the Worst in History of the Lakes

9 out of the 10 worst annual inflows have occurred since 2006

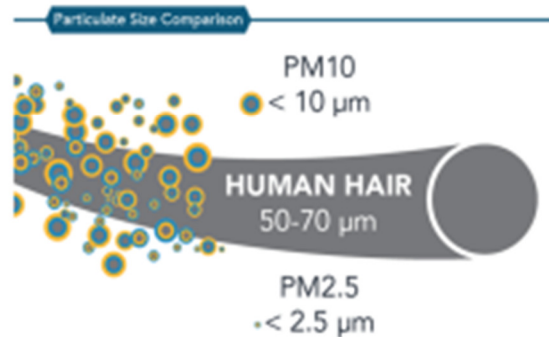


One of the biggest problem areas, and a reason for the permit application, is airborne dust. Note the 12-mile circle shown above. 10PM particles can travel almost three times the distance of the above circle. It takes an N95 mask to filter out the 2.5PM particles. No matter which way the wind blows, parts of the environmentally sensitive area of Lake Buchanan, Inks Lake, Lake LBJ and Lake Travis along with the two State parks and Camp Longhorn will be covered in toxic dust. Not to mention the devastating effects on the three wineries noted.

Rock Crushing Plant – Dust

Dust can travel hundreds of miles, depending on the size of the dust particles and the strength of the wind:

- PM 10 particles: Can travel up to 30 miles.
- PM 2.5 particles: Can travel hundreds of miles.
- Silica dust: Can travel up to 50 miles from the source





In conclusion we, The Lake Buchanan Communities Alliance, respectfully ask that permit # 2024-5606 UO be denied on the above grounds. Its approval would have a devastating effect on the environment of our area, the quantity and quality of our water as well as our quality of life.

Sincerely,

Wayne Shipley
President
Lake Buchanan Communities Alliance
P.O Box 11, Buchanan Dam, Texas 78609
325-423-3466