

Quarry and Mine Permit Application near Highland Lakes

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is accepting public comments for an aggregate processing plant and quarry near Inks Lake from Asphalt Inc. The LCRA has determined the application to be "administratively complete", however, NO hydrological or geological assessment has been completed. Therefore, the potential impacts to Longhorn Caverns, a nearby natural cave system, and the area's water resources has not been adequately considered.

Help us urge the LCRA to require a more thorough environmental assessment of the potential impacts this mining operation could have on the surrounding area.

Comments Due: Friday, February 7 by 11:59 pm

How to Submit:

Comments to the LCRA can be submitted electronically, by mail, or delivered in-person.

Electronic Submission: Submit Comments

Mail:

LCRA – HLWO Comment Mail Stop L106 P.O. Box 220 Austin, TX 78767 Deliver In-person:

LCRA – HLWO Comment 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Austin, TX 78703

Sample Comment Text:

RE: HLWO permit application number 2024-5606

To Whom It May Concern,

I *[or your business / organization]* strongly oppose the approval of permit application #2024-5606 in Burnet County. The applicant, Asphalt Inc., must be required to conduct

thorough hydrological and geological studies to assess the potential damage a rock-crushing operation could cause in such an environmentally sensitive area. Longhorn Caverns, a unique and fragile karst system, is directly connected to the region's groundwater. The blasting necessary for rock extraction risks widening fissures and fractures within the cave system, leading to irreversible structural damage and potential groundwater contamination. Without comprehensive studies, the full extent of these risks cannot be known or mitigated. [OPTIONAL - Add a personal connection to the Longhorn Caverns or experience with the impact of quarries.]

As the agency charged with protecting the Highland Lakes and regional water resources, the LCRA must go beyond merely verifying administrative completeness when reviewing this permit. A project of this magnitude demands a rigorous, science-based assessment to determine whether it poses an unacceptable risk to critical natural resources. I urge the LCRA to uphold its responsibility by requiring the necessary studies and safeguards before any permit is considered.

Sincerely, [Your Name]