



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **HITCH RACK RANCH QUARRY SCAR WOULD BE VISIBLE FROM AREAS THROUGHOUT THE PIKES PEAK REGION**

Transit Mix's proposed Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry in southern El Paso County — which goes in front of the state's Mine Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) this week — would leave a scar visible from numerous points throughout the region, directly refuting claims by Transit Mix that the scar would be almost invisible. The study, conducted by Zach Perdue of ELEV8 and released by the Highway 115 Citizens Advisory Committee, includes photographs and videos that show the quarry's visibility from various points in the region.

"Transit Mix has made public statements that the quarry would be "practically invisible." That's pure fiction," said Kris McCowen, chair of the committee. "This study shows that the scar would be visible to drivers on Highway 115, I-25, and as far away as Mesa Ridge High School and the Airport. Once again, Transit Mix is being deceptive when presenting the quarry project to citizens and elected officials."

"The study looked at the elevations in the project area, along with sight lines, and it's irrefutable that the scar would be visible from several areas in the region," said Kristan Rigdon, Vice Chair of the committee. "A better question might be 'how could it not be visible? The quarry will be approximately twice as large as Pikeview Quarry and the stripped granite wall will be 620 feet high. That's more than twice as tall as the Wells Fargo tower in downtown Colorado Springs."

Perdue is a GIS and modeling consultant and has more than 15 years of experience performing complex geospatial, statistical and visualization analyses, and web-based application development for both public and private sector clients.

Opponents of the project note several reasons why the proposed site for the quarry is bad, but one of the biggest issues is creating yet another scar in the foothills. The region already has three scars, including the massive scar at Pikeview Quarry and the Black Canyon Quarry.

(more)

“Another scar is not in the best interest of the region,” added McCowen. “You’d think we would have learned something from Transit Mix’s Pikeview Quarry debacle. It’s a hideous scar with major landslide issues and, according to the current mining permit, Pikeview should already be in reclamation. Why would we want to repeat that?”

The formal MLRB hearing for the Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry permit request will be Wednesday and Thursday, April 25 and 26, at the Hotel Elegante’ Conference & Event Center in Colorado Springs. The hearing starts at 9:00 a.m. each day. The hotel is located at 2886 S. Circle Dr.

**Contact:**

Kristan Rigdon, 719-499-4700

Or,

Kyle Blakely, 719-439-4890

[kyle@blakelycompany.com](mailto:kyle@blakelycompany.com)

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