

Personal Letter Template

This template is designed to help you voice concerns about water impacts related to the proposed Ranch Quarry (Whatcom County/Saar Creek Valley area). It is based on common concerns regarding this project.

Instructions:

- **Replace** all text in **[brackets]** with your personal information.
- **Customize** the sections in **red** (or indicated as optional) to reflect your specific situation (e.g., if you have a well, live on a specific stream, or are a farmer).
- **Submit** this letter to the Whatcom County Planning and Development Services (PDS) during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) comment period.

NOTE: the email address may change when comments are requested on 4/29/26...we will update you.

Date: **[Date]**

To: Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Dr C, Bellingham, WA 98226
Via Email: [RanchQuarryEIS@co.whatcom.wa.us]

Re: Opposition to Ranch Quarry Proposal CUP2023-00001, SEPA2023-00005

Dear Mr. Personious:

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed Ranch Quarry project. As a resident of **[Your Neighborhood/Area]**, I believe this project poses a severe, long-term threat to our local water resources, ecosystems, and community well-being, and it should be denied.

My concerns center specifically on the following water-related impacts:

1. Threat to Groundwater and Private Wells: I am deeply concerned that blasting and excavation will disturb the aquifer, threatening the quantity and quality of local groundwater. I live near the proposed site and rely on a private well for my home/farming. I fear the blasting could crack the surrounding rock, causing my well to run dry or become contaminated.

2. Degradation of Surface Water and Salmon Habitat: The proposal to remove three prominent mountain features in the Saar Creek Valley will likely alter natural water flows, increasing runoff and sedimentation. This will directly damage nearby wetlands, streams, and crucial salmon habitats.

3. Contamination Risks: The introduction of heavy machinery, industrial fuel storage, and chemical explosives (such as ANFO) creates an unacceptably high risk of contaminating our watershed.

4. Incompatibility with Agricultural and Residential Use: The area surrounding the proposed mine is home to farms and residents who depend on clean, abundant water. An industrial-sized quarry is incompatible with this rural, water-dependent environment.

The proposed mitigation measures are insufficient to guarantee the protection of our water supply, particularly regarding the potential for well interference.

I request that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) thoroughly analyzes the cumulative impact of this quarry on the entire watershed, rather than just individual sites.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your Printed Name]

[Your Address]

[Your Phone Number/Email]