



MOUNTAIN CAMPUS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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April 30, 2021

TO: Master Plan Committee

FROM: Seth Webb, Director, Mountain Campus

RE: Best Management Practices for mitigating impacts of subsurface geotechnical survey at Mountain Campus gravel pit/quarry

Dear Master Plan Committee:

On Wednesday, April 28, 2021, per the contingency on the motion to approve the Larimer County request to perform a geological subsurface investigation at the existing gravel pit/quarry located a half mile down the road from the entrance to the Mountain Campus, I solicited input from WCNR Dean John Hayes, Geosciences Department Head Rick Aster and FWCB Faculty and NR220 Academic Director Paul Doherty regarding "recommendations of best practices for drilling exploration as informed by WCNR."

I provided the background of the Larimer County request including the scope of the survey as described in their project brief: "The geological investigation would consist of 4 split tube samples collected from a truck mounted drill rig. In addition, Larimer County would utilize a backhoe on site for approximately 5 test excavation pits. The depth of excavation would be limited to 8' for minimal disruption. All test pits and boring holes would be backfilled and returned to existing grade with minimal disruption. Investigation would stick to previously disrupted land."

Email responses were received from Rick Aster and Paul Doherty as follows on 4/28:

Seth - Thanks for letting me know about this. I'll think on it some more and perhaps discuss with a faculty member with greater expertise. My first impression is that a truck rig and backhoe working at this scale in the existing disturbed area would be no issue in this context.

Best,

Rick

Professor of Geophysics and Department Head, Geosciences Department

Seth,

I am not familiar with the proposed activities, so I may be missing something. Sounds like folks want to drill a few holes and dig few deep pits to see how much gravel and sand is in the area. And then cover the holes back up. Doesn't sound like too big a deal and not too different than activities that happen already. Unless someone came back and said they would be hitting the water table, or something else I don't understand, I don't have wildlife concerns with the survey.

Paul

Professor, Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology; Summer NR220 Academic Director, Mountain Campus

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Regards,