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CALIFORNIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
margo@lungsrus.org

Media Contact: Margo Sidener
(408) 998-5865

Lehigh Hanson Cement Plant Report Shows Low Cost Control Technologies Could Help Curb Pollution

SAN JOSE, CA -- Breathe California of the Bay Area on Friday released a report on the Lehigh Cement Plant that shows the plant could significantly reduce pollution through affordable control technology.

Concerned about the public health impact of airborne pollution emissions from the cement plant located just North of Cupertino, CA , Breathe California recently engaged an outside expert to suggest new, cost-effective solutions for reducing emissions not previously identified or evaluated. "We wanted to explore every solution and see if there were any win-win solutions to be found," said Margo Sidener, President and CEO of the agency.

In late 2012, with modest financial support from the Cities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, and private donors, the agency contracted with an expert in the field of Air Pollution Control: Andover Technologies of Andover, MA. Andover was charged with evaluating the plant to see if lower emissions were possible, specifically regarding the following: nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury, and particulate matter. Nitrogen oxide, damaging to health on its own, also leads to the formation of ozone (smog), a serious health problem. These pollutants cause a host of health problems: from eye and throat irritation; to lung inflammation and reduced lung function; to increased asthma, ER visits and hospitalizations; to increased heart problems and even death.

Andover has now completed their evaluation and has produced a report which recommends several minor capital and procedural improvements. The study identified several methods that would further reduce emissions of nitrogen oxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide with little or no additional investment costs by the cement plant. Mercury should be controllable with sufficient use of material in the recently installed Activated Charcoal Injection unit. The report was based on information in

BAAQMD's Staff Report of July 2012 and many communications with BAAQMD staff.

The report discusses the current level of pollution at the Lehigh plant, actions Lehigh plans to take to meet new emission reduction targets from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the US Environmental Protection Agency, and additional control technologies that could further reduce emissions. Jim Staudt, the author of the study, reminds the reader, "This is not intended to "second guess" the work that others have done so far, but to look for opportunities that may be available for additional reductions..."

Some of the report's major conclusions: 1) With the use of lime injection, one could expect about a 50% reduction in *sulfur dioxide* emissions and also a 75% reduction in *hydrogen chloride*. This could be done with no additional investment than that already committed by Lehigh; 2), For assurance in achieving particulate emission control, the study recommends a Continuous Emission Monitoring System, or at least an opacity monitoring should be used in operations to quickly address equipment failure or other malfunctions that could lead to high *particulate matter* emissions; 3) A capital outlay of about \$520,000 for Mixing Air Technology could potentially reduce both *sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide*; 4) For a modest capital investment (not determined) and the operating increases from the differential in fuel costs (expected to be modest), the use of natural gas in the precalciner would reduce *nitrogen oxide* emissions and also *particulate matter* and *sulfur dioxide* emissions; 5) Use of Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction could lower nitrogen oxide emissions with no capital investment and a modest increase in operating costs.

The report has been distributed to both the Lehigh Hanson management and to Bay Area Air Quality Management District officials. It can be accessed on-line at www.lungsrus.org.

About Breathe California of the Bay Area

Celebrating its 102nd year in the Bay Area, BREATHE CALIFORNIA is dedicated to fighting lung disease and advocating for clean air. As one of California's oldest voluntary health organizations, BREATHE CALIFORNIA addresses the most critical lung health threats through prevention, education, patient support, research and advocacy.

1469 Park Ave., San Jose, CA 95126-2530

Phone: (408) 998-5865 www.lungsrus.org Fax: (408) 998-0578

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