



Montana State Land Board  
DNRC Headquarters  
1539 Eleventh Ave.  
Helena, MT 59601

To the Montana State Land Board,

The Park County Commission writes to express our strong support for the creation of a gravel pit on state land located approximately one mile north of Emigrant in Paradise Valley. (S22, T05 S, R08 E, N2, SW4, W2SE4)

The proposed gravel pit offers significant public safety, fiscal, and environmental benefits for Park County and the greater region. Establishing a gravel source at this location would meaningfully reduce heavy truck traffic traveling from the nearest existing pit toward Paradise Valley and Yellowstone National Park. By shifting this traffic away from Livingston and other high-use corridors, the project would improve safety for both drivers and pedestrians, particularly during peak tourist seasons.

In addition, the project would directly enhance safety along U.S. Highway 89 South by removing a substantial amount of gravel-hauling truck traffic from the busiest stretch of the highway between Livingston and Emigrant. This reduction in truck traffic would decrease congestion, reduce wear on the roadway, and lower the risk of traffic incidents during the summer months when visitation is at its highest.

From a fiscal standpoint, the proposed gravel pit would provide a significant benefit to Park County taxpayers. Locating a pit closer to county road projects in Paradise Valley would drastically reduce hauling distances, resulting in an estimated savings of up to \$50,000 per year in gravel transportation costs. These savings would allow limited county resources to be redirected toward additional road maintenance and public infrastructure needs.

The project also aligns with environmental stewardship goals. Reducing the number of miles gravel must be hauled will substantially decrease fuel consumption and associated carbon dioxide emissions. Given that approximately 25 tons of CO2 are required per mile of road construction or maintenance, shortening haul distances will have a measurable positive impact on emissions and overall environmental footprint.

Finally, the proposed site's direct adjacency to U.S. Highway 89 South minimizes impacts to county roads when compared to gravel pits located farther from a state highway. This location

February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026

reduces heavy truck traffic on local roads, preserving road conditions and improving safety for residents.

For these reasons, the Park County Commission respectfully supports the approval of the proposed gravel pit on state land near Emigrant. We appreciate the Land Board's consideration of this request and its continued commitment to balancing resource development with public safety, fiscal responsibility, and environmental care.

Sincerely,

## **PARK COUNTY COMMISSION**

Michael Story, Chair Date

Bryan Wells, Commissioner Date

Jennifer Vermillion, Commissioner      Date