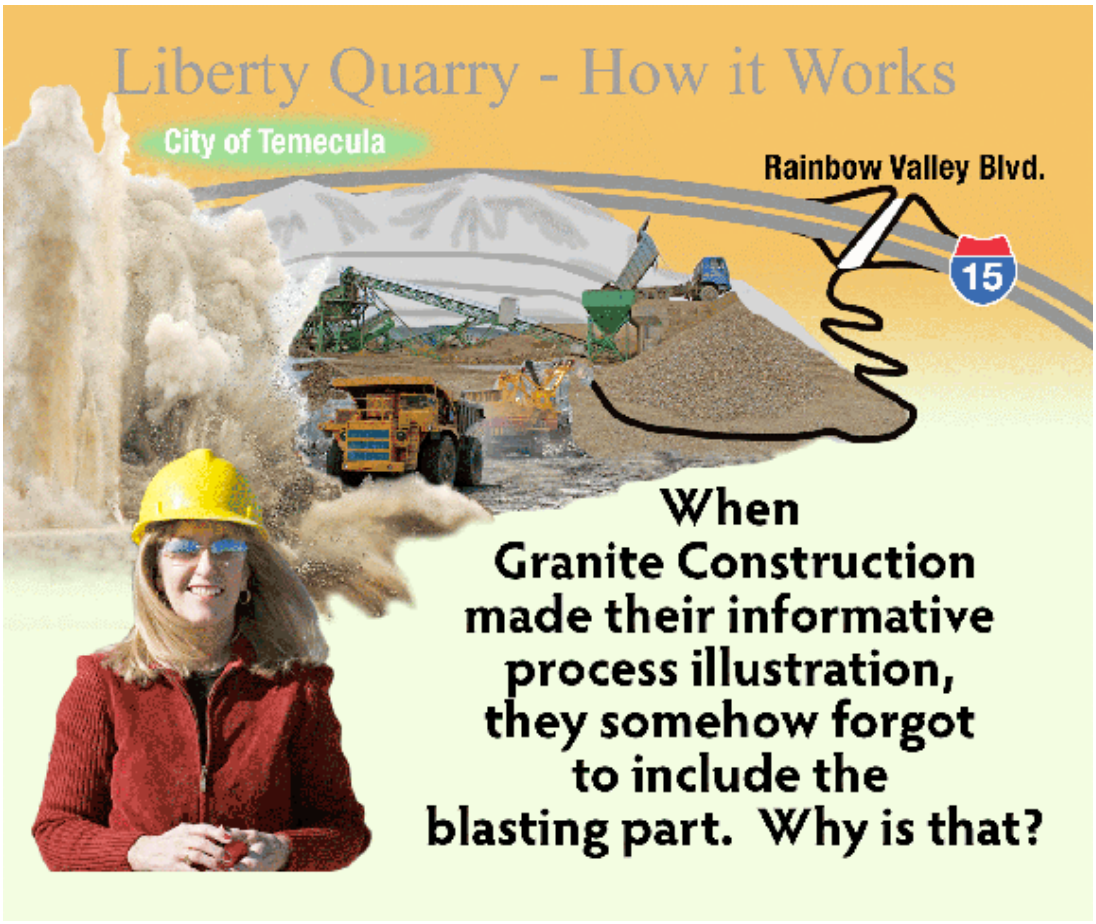

TRUTH UPDATE #6

If you have visited Granite Construction's Indio quarry, or many other quarries in Riverside County, blasting is not part of the process. For quarries with very hard rock, such as the proposed Liberty Quarry, blasting is an integral part of the process.

Granite representatives have stated that Liberty Quarry will use 10,000 pounds of explosives in a single daily blast. So how big a bang do you get with 10,000 pounds of explosives? Well, only 5,000 pounds of the same explosive were used in April 1995 to bring down a major portion of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

There are three major problems with blasting in quarries. One is that the detonation of the explosives causes a lot of dust and debris, which is unavoidable. Much of this dust will become airborne for a very short period and settle back down to earth, but not all of it. Some of the dust, which is what is called the PM10, and smaller size remains in the air and will be carried off with the prevailing winds.

Second is that the explosives are loaded into a number of holes drilled into the rock. If for any unforeseen reason there is a cavern in the underground, the hole can overfill with explosives, creating a very unsafe situation.

Third, it is possible that once the holes are filled with explosives, the winds will exceed the wind speed for blasting, but now the holes are filled with explosives. What to do? Once the holes have been filled, it is too late to remove the explosives. The only safe thing to do is detonate the explosives, even if the wind speeds are above the allowable limits, which means the dust will be leaving the quarry site.

And let's not forget the transporting of all those explosives on our freeways!

So why do YOU think they forgot to include blasting in their illustration. Do they really think we are all that naive?

I guess they do.