

# Taxpayers group favors VS asphalt plant

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The Calaveras County Taxpayers Association has sided with county Planning Director Peter Maurer on his decision to allow an asphalt hot plant in Valley Springs.

“The more we discover the facts, the more it becomes apparent that the planning director was correct in approving the asphalt hot plant application,” Al Segalla, Calaveras County Taxpayers Association president, said on Friday.

Maurer on April 30 sent a letter to Nick Jones, Ford Construction Co. president, saying the hot plant was a permitted use at the Foothill Materials Inc. quarry located at 3650 Hogan Dam Road. Foothill Materials is a subsidiary of Ford Construction.

Maurer’s decision was subject to appeal and the matter is scheduled to go before the Calaveras County Planning Commission at its June 25 meeting.

“The fumes issue is handled by a cleaning process approved by the regulatory agencies,” Segalla said in a press release issued on Friday. “In fact, there are 11 government agencies with rules to be complied with and the owner claims to have done so for 25 years without incident.”

Segalla, who resides in Copperopolis, said, “Asphalt is not a hazard or a pollutant. It is used extensively on all our roads. It sheds water and there is no danger of groundwater contamination or danger to our water supply. The CCWD Board should have known this before calling for Planning Commission review.”

In addition to CCWD, myvalleysprings.com and nearby residents have come out in opposition to the proposal based on lack of public review, environmental concerns and traffic issues.

“If local government were to demand a \$500,000 EIR from the company, the result would likely be a disaster for the little company and yet another black eye for business in our county,” Segalla said. “How long can this company withstand the highly organized hate campaign? This company is under attack with false accusations. The only hope is for Ford Construction Company and our fragile economy is for honest people of good will to learn the truth and speak up now.”