

## Shooting center neighbor plans to file an appeal

By Nick Baptista/ The Valley Springs News/ June 22, 2011

At least one neighbor plans to file an appeal to last week's decision by the Calaveras County Planning Commission approving a sports shooting center near Valley Springs.

Sandy Gleason, who lives on property next to the proposed shooting facility off Watertown Road, says she plans to file an appeal within the 15-day period.

The Planning Commission voted 4-1 Thursday in favor of the facility with Commissioner Fawn McLaughlin opposing the proposal.

The shooting center would be located 1 1/2 miles from Valley Springs on a parcel of industrial-zoned property owned by Tom Coe. He sought approval from the planning panel since shooting ranges are designated only in a recreational zone in the county's General Plan.

Gleason and her husband live on the last house on Watertown Road and the entrance to the range will be at the end of her pasture.

"Mostly, all we asked was that if the range was approved, they at least make it conditional, and that we be given time to see what all of Tom Coe's plan was, how he was going to handle sound suppression and how soon would each phase go into place," she said.

"Mr. Coe's heart is in the right place, but it's hard on us who have been here awhile and love the peace and quiet, but don't know what to expect going forward," she added.

She also doesn't like talk that a use much worse than a shooting range could be placed on the land and sees that as a threat.

Dave Tanner of Tanner Consulting Group has helped prepare plans for the sports facility and said an appeal has been expected, but he was pleased with the actions by the Planning Commission.

Thursday's Planning Commission meeting drew nearly a full house and many of those in attendance were the youngsters on the local trapshooting program who will benefit with a practice facility closer to home.

"It's good our kids get to see this process," Tanner said.

Tanner said he was pleased the Planning Commission realized the shooting center would be an economic benefit to the community.

If the Planning Commission decision is appealed, the matter will move to the Board of Supervisors for a final decision.