

Asphalt plant apparently Amador bound

By Nick Baptista/ The Valley Springs News/ Friday, June 12, 2015

Plans to place an asphalt hot plant in Valley Springs reportedly have been dropped.

Al Segalla, Calaveras County Taxpayers Association president, used the public comment portion of Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting to express his disappointment Ford Construction Co. has decided not to go forward with the project.

"This needs to proceed even though the applicant is not going to," Segalla said. His organization on Friday issued a press release in favor of county Planning Director Peter Maurer's decision to allow the asphalt plant at Ford Construction's quarry located at 3650 Hogan Dam Road.

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

Valley Springs' loss appears to be Amador County's gain.

"They have an offer apparently from Amador County," Segalla said at the board meeting. "They are welcome there, so it's kind of like a black eye on our economy and a black eye on the basic laws and principles of honesty and telling the truth."

The Calaveras County Water District, MyValleySprings.com and nearby residents had come out in opposition to the proposal based on lack of public review, environmental concerns and traffic issues.

Segalla took Tuesday's public comment opportunity to lambaste those opposed to the project, the media and public officials who backed away from the project once it was exposed to the public.

He said charges against the proposal were false and were equivalent to libel.

"We think that we should proceed because all of this false information to the planning commission," Segalla said, "and have this reviewed so that in the future, if this company were to decide that it would want to reinstall an asphalt plant it could do so with no more complications."

Such a review would "clear the air" and "get the truth out," he added.

A call to Ford Construction President Nick Jones to confirm the Company's decision to pull the plug on the Valley Springs asphalt plant was not returned by presstime Thursday.