

# Asphalt plant's fate in doubt

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It may be several months before Calaveras County officials determine whether an asphalt plant can be installed and operated from the Hogan Quarry near Valley Springs.

Three items concerning the request were before the Calaveras County Planning Commission on Thursday.

The commission voted on a resolution backing county Planning Director Peter Maurer's April 30 decision the asphalt plant is a permitted use at the Foothill Materials Inc. quarry located at 3650 Hogan Dam Road.

However, two appeals raised by Ford Construction Inc. and CB Asphalt Inc., which would like to install and operate the plant without going through an environmental study of the project, received mixed responses from the commission. The study is being requested by the county's Air Pollution Control District.

The commission voted unanimously to uphold a determination county Environmental Management Agency Director Moss made in a letter dated May 28 that the issuance by the local air pollution control district of authority to construct an asphalt plant is a project covered by the California Environmental Quality Act. That means some level of review of environmental impacts of the project is required before the asphalt plant can be constructed.

However, the commission reversed another determination Moss made on May 28 that review under the California Environmental Quality Act is required when the county receives an application for a new proposed use or issues a license or building permit.

The process likely will last longer because the losing side on each matter has the option to appeal to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors.