

Deadline to appeal asphalt plant decisions approaching

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / Wednesday, July 22, 2015

MyValleySprings.com, which has been spearheading opposition against placement of an asphalt hot plant at the Hogan Quarry near Valley Springs, has not formally filed appeals to a pair of July 9 Calaveras County Planning Commission decisions favorable to quarry operators, but anticipates it will do so,

The public has 15 days from a commission decision to file an appeal to the Board of Supervisors, so that deadline is Friday, July 24.

“It’s going to happen, but not yet,” said MVS.com President Joyce Techel when asked by The Valley Springs News on Monday whether her organization was going to appeal the decisions.

The decisions being considered for appeal are the commission’s vote 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 and reversal of a determination by county Environmental Management Agency Director Brian Moss that a new use, such as the asphalt plant, triggers an environmental review.

In the meantime, residents have scheduled a community meeting in opposition to the asphalt plant from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 25, at the La Contenta Events Center. Tom Infusino, an attorney for the Calaveras Planning Coalition, is scheduled to make a presentation.

MyValleySprings.com did not organize the community meeting. Techel said, “but we’ll be happy to show up and support them any way we can.”

Although the approval process is far from done, MVS.com has posted several photographs at its website of additional hot plant equipment being installed at the quarry.