

MVS.com upset asphalt parts delivered to quarry

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MyValleySprings.com photo of equipment delivered to the Hogan Quarry.

Concerns over a proposal to place an asphalt “hot plant” at the Hogan Quarry in Valley Springs increased with last week’s delivery of equipment to the site.

MyValleySprings.com, the Calaveras County Water District and neighbors near the quarry are appealing a recent administrative decision to approve a request by Ford Construction Co. out of Lodi to expand operations at the quarry to include running the asphalt “hot plant.”

Calaveras County Planning Director Peter Maurer on April 30 sent a letter to Nick Jones, Ford Construction Co. president, saying the “hot plant” is a permitted use at the Ford 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 Planning Commission at its June 25 meeting, according to Colleen Platt, MyValleySprings.com secretary.

She approached the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors Tuesday morning to outline her organization’s worries over placement of the “hot plant” near residential areas and a CCWD water treatment plant.

In addition, she expressed concern Ford Construction is moving ahead with its plans before the matter goes before the county Planning Commission.

“Despite the fact that two appeals were filed, a large asphalt drum was trucked in and discovered parked inside the quarry gates last Friday”, she told the board.

Calls to Ford Construction by The Valley Springs News about its plans have gone unanswered.

In her comments to the board on Tuesday, Platt said, “We have been researching the issues and trying to find out everything we can about the asphalt plant to inform the people in the area, because nothing was made public. Folks don’t appreciate the way the asphalt plant was pushed forward so quickly, and they don’t like the lack of information available. This looks to them like an attempt to sneak the project through by avoiding public scrutiny.”

She also presented the board with a list of questions that should be taken under consideration. Those questions are:

- How many new truck trips a day will be generated?
- What hours will the asphalt plant and trucks be allowed to operate—day or night?
- How much will the asphalt plant produce? Are there limits to production?
- What is the projected volume of export off-site, and will this exceed the existing annual permit limit of 10 trucks a day for export materials?
- What are the current daily trip averages for offsite hauling, and what could averages and maximums be with the expected use?
- What hazardous and toxic materials will be on-site & how will we be protected?
- How will air pollution and emissions be prevented?
- What conditions will protect the adjacent Calaveras River water from runoff and air born particulates? This is the drinking water for La Contenta, Gold Creek, and Rancho Calaveras, and the spawning grounds for federally listed steelhead salmon.
- What about fire protection measures for the hot asphalt plant and surrounding dry vegetation? Will there be fire hydrants?
- What are the size, type, manufacturer, and model number of the asphalt plant?
- What will be the new noise levels generated?
- Is this asphalt plant from out of state, and does it meet California state requirements?

“Your constituents deserve better than this,” Platt told the board. “They deserve and require public notice and environmental review of the asphalt plant before it begins operation at the Hogan Quarry.”