

# Quarry threatens water quality

## Letter to the Editor

Posted: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 6:00 am

I am a long-term resident of Rancho Calaveras. On May 15, I had a very unpleasant surprise when I learned that Ford Construction Co. was given permission by the Calaveras County planning director to construct an asphalt plant at the quarry that the company operates on Silver Rapids Road.

This decision was apparently made with no public input. The justification for this unilateral action was that such a use was within the limits of the current permits governing the operation of the quarry. The residents of the surrounding area were not consulted nor were they informed of the decision made by the director of planning. Since the proposed asphalt operation was to be located close to the Calaveras County Water District's Jenny Lind water processing plant, the public and especially the residents of the surrounding area should have been informed of this action.

There was a time when this area was virtually unoccupied and was primarily grazing land. Those days are gone. The area surrounding the Ford quarry is a residential area now. I would argue that it is high time to review the permits for the present use. Even without the construction of an asphalt operation, the quarry is now a nuisance and an eyesore as well as a threat to the water quality of the area.

I would like to thank CCWD for being aware of the situation and for filing an appeal on this decision. At this point, it is my belief that a complete review of both the existing permits and an environmental review are in order.

**John A. Walker**

*Valley Springs*

[http://www.calaverasenterprise.com/opinion/article\\_e1b238a0-0326-11e5-8fe9-e789a6e04864.html](http://www.calaverasenterprise.com/opinion/article_e1b238a0-0326-11e5-8fe9-e789a6e04864.html)