

Letters to the Editor

The Valley Springs News/ June 17, 2015

Residents being kept in the dark

Editor:

Thanks to the VS News- without your vigilance, we would not know what was going on with the "Hot Asphalt Plant" proposed for the Hogan Rock Quarry.

Apparently, Al Segalla (and his Calaveras County Taxpayers Association) did have some advance info and urged the BOS to proceed "even though the applicant is not going to".

I smell a rat.

There are at least 20 families here in Harper Valley (just below the quarry, on Harper and Laurent streets) directly impacted by such a proposed expansion. We are "neighbors" of the quarry. Our mailboxes are mostly in a clump at the intersection of Harper and Laurent.

How hard would it have been for the quarry to place notes in our boxes saying, "We are contemplating an expansion and we wanted to let our neighbors know what is tentatively planned...."?

As it stands, we have gotten no info from them. We don't know if the expansion was planned as an indoor or outdoor facility. We don't know if particulate matter was to be discharged into the air or to be captured at the site. We know nothing.

Mr. Segalla apparently does have enough information to convince him to cheerlead. And Planning Director Maurer has made a decision to allow the expansion without even notifying us, let alone soliciting our input. At a later and more appropriate time, we will request the data that Mr. Maurer used to make his decision.

For now, "maybe" the decision is moot, although the quarry has seemingly not confirmed that they are locating the "hot asphalt plant" portion of the business elsewhere. If this is to be located in an industrial area, we salute their wisdom. We wonder if Mr. Segalla would be so cavalier about urging that the hot asphalt plant be located in his residential neighborhood.

If the Hogan Rock Quarry does intend to proceed to gain approval at the June 25 Planning Commission meeting (or if Mr. Segalla plans to grease those skids for a future approval at that 6/25 meeting, we feel it is only fair that we as direct neighbors at least be notified of same – you have our tax records to go by, so, send us notification that something involving our neighborhood is on the agenda (if it remains so).

Maybe we need some sort of an "organization" to get that kind of consideration. Maybe we need to become the Harper Valley PTA (parent-tazpayers association).

Brock Estes
Valley Springs