

Letter to the Editor

The Valley Springs News, January 6, 2016

Setting the record straight

Editor:

This is in response to David Aguilar's misstatements (12/23) about the history of the neighborhood in which the Hogan Quarry now exists.

In the early 60's, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (your tax dollars at work) built the dam to create Hogan reservoir, using rock from land owned by the Lombardi family. So, Stockton was first in the area and most of their water (and ours) is held there. Our responsibility is to be stewards of their water as well as guardians of our own drinking source.

The quarry, such as it was, then sat dormant for over a decade. During that time, Silver Rapids Road was built (1967) in order to provide access to the area, since Boise-Cascade bought up the surrounding grazing land in order to create what was then the largest planned residential community in the state of California. Silver Rapids WAS reinforced to handle heavy trucks, but not until 10 years later. So, second in was the residential community. In the late seventies, two companies leased the land from the Lombardis and tried, but failed, to make a go of the quarry as a profit making venture. During that time, the code was changed. The word "asphalt" (as a permitted use) was removed in 1978 and left out again in 1986. In 1990, Ford bought the land from the Lombardis and began a successful rock harvesting operation at the edge of a developing residential neighborhood. So, they were the third entity in.

In 2015, CB Construction, a Missouri company, somehow got some Caltrans contracts and is attempting to partner with Ford to buy their rock and create asphalt at the site. I live in that valley, one third of a mile from the quarry (a "bowl" surrounded by high hills with 20-plus children out playing every day). So, the idea of an asphalt plant occurs way after the neighborhood was developed and settled and even a for-profit rock quarry postdates the formation of the neighborhood.

Brock Estes

Valley Springs