

# Owner of Ojai quarry appeals decision on alleged violations

**Kathleen Wilson, Ventura County Star, 11-25-10**

Quarry owner Larry Mosler filed an appeal Wednesday to take his fight over violations county officials say exist at his Ojai-area mine to the county Board of Supervisors, probably by early next year.

The Newbury Park resident said he still hoped to settle the dispute with county planning managers but is appealing to preserve his right to take legal action.

“I want to work with these people because it’s the cheapest way out of this problem and the fastest way out of this problem, but if they take a hard line and there’s no negotiating, what can I do?” he said Wednesday.

County planners have cited the Mosler Rock/Ojai Quarry for 14 violations, all of which were upheld Nov. 18 by the Ventura County Planning Commission.

Planning Director Kim Prillhart has said she would like to settle as well but that Mosler needs to amend his permit if he wants to operate outside the conditions.

By filing Wednesday, Mosler met the 10-day deadline for an appeal.

Located off Highway 33 northwest of Ojai, the Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry produces rock for rip-rap, crushed rock for gravel, and fill sand. It’s existed since 1939, but Mosler bought it in 2005 and expanded the small mining operation.

Starting in 2008 and escalating over the past year, county planners have faulted him for the way he’s been operating the mine. He’s accused of mining outside the allowable boundaries and hours, putting more than 20 trucks on the road in a day, running trucks into Ojai during the morning commute time, and failing to get approval to use new equipment.

The Planning Commission sympathized with Mosler’s struggle to meet layers of local, state and federal rules but upheld the violations cited by the planning staff. All of the violations conflict with a conditional use permit issued for the mine under different ownership in 1995, officials said.

No date has been set for the hearing before county supervisors. At the earliest, it would be held in mid- to late January, county planning manager Dan Klemann said Wednesday.