

# Truck Village issue may go to vote June 16

**David Smith, Siskiyou Daily News, 6-8-10**

MOUNT SHASTA — A long-standing dispute in the Mount Shasta area may be going to a vote June 16 as the Siskiyou County Planning Commission will be deciding whether or not it will affirm an order to comply issued to Keith Darrah, operator of the Truck Village Quarry.

If affirmed, the order would require Darrah to cease all mining on two parcels of land, including the extraction and processing of material, until obtaining an approved use permit.

According to the Planning Commission Staff Report on the issue, the case began in 1997 when the Planning Department notified Darrah that he was suspected of conducting mining operations as defined in the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), as well as selling mined material without a use permit and reclamation plan.

Detailed in the staff report are a number of allegations against Darrah, with the main points focused on whether or not his operations are exempt from SMARA, the efficacy of his reclamation efforts, whether or not he has gained an unfair business advantage in exporting and selling materials mined from the site and whether or not his use of a rock crusher on site is in violation of county ordinances.

The brief filed on behalf of Darrah by local attorney Darrin Mercier disputes those allegations, adding allegations against the county that Darrah has been deprived of due process rights as a result of county action, that the county is engaging in selective enforcement and that the county lacks the authority to impose the \$6 million in fines leveled against Darrah for allegedly continuing to operate after receiving a Notice of Violation in 2008.

Also added to the issue are the concerns of those who live near Darrah's operation, which is located at the base of Black Butte just off of Interstate 5. Those concerns, some of which Mercier claims have been addressed through mitigations, include possible dust and noise pollution, as well as concerns about the sale of the materials.

The Planning Commission hearing on the issue, which is continued from May 17 and 18, is expected to end in a vote either affirming or denying the Planning Department staff findings, based on the large volume of information provided by both sides.

The meeting will take place at 9 a.m. in the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 311 Fourth St. in Yreka.