

# **Mendocino County sued over gravel mine**

**Glenda Anderson, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, 9-9-10**

Sonoma County-based Russian Riverkeeper, an environmental group, has filed a lawsuit opposing a pit gravel mining operation just north of Ukiah.

Mendocino County has approved the operation's environmental impact report. Riverkeeper said Thursday that the environmental report does not fully identify or analyze the potential severe environmental impacts of the project.

Granite Construction plans to extract each year between 100,000 tons and 250,000 tons of gravel along the Russian River, depending on market demand.

Nearby property owners also have objected to the operation, which would be adjacent to 47 acres owned by Masonite Corp. and more than 100 acres formerly owned by Masonite that were sold to developers for shopping and housing projects. Masonite has said the gravel mining operation could potentially kill future development on that parcel.

Mendocino County Planning Commissioners said they believe the project's impacts can be mitigated, adding that the project would benefit the county by creating new jobs.