

More than 1,000 argue of SoCal quarry proposal

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TEMECULA — A planning hearing over a proposed rock quarry in Riverside County has drawn more than 1,000 people.

Opponents and critics of the Temecula-area quarry cheered and booed Tuesday during a seven-hour meeting of the Planning Commission. Commissioners took no action on whether to grant a surface mining permit pending further public hearings.

The 1,000-foot-deep quarry has been under proposal for six years.

Supporters on Tuesday said the open-pit mine will bring jobs and reduce truck traffic by providing a local site for building materials while critics - including members of the Temecula City Council - said it will pollute the area.

The chairman of the Pechanga Indian tribe says the quarry would destroy a mountain that his people consider sacred.