

# Sacramento supervisors give tentative OK to mining proposal in east county

**Brad Branan, Sacramento Bee, 12-8-11**

Sacramento County Supervisors gave initial approval Wednesday to one of three hard-rock mining operations planned in the eastern part of the county.

The projects have raised concern about truck traffic, noise, water supply and other issues in the agricultural area south of White Rock Road.

But county planners say the region is close to exhausting its existing aggregate sources, which are needed for continued development and growth.

The proposed mines are near the county's expected growth area.

Supervisors gave unanimous approval to key requirements needed by Angelo G. Tsakopoulos to start mining 620 acres at the Stoneridge Quarry for the next 100 years. Because the vote included a change to the county's general plan, supervisors must wait until next month before giving final approval.

About a year ago, supervisors approved the first hard-rock mining project in the county. Aggregate material for construction has been obtained from riverbeds in the past, but that supply is running out, officials say.

Teichert Aggregates has received approval for a mine next to the Stoneridge Quarry. A third mine is planned several miles to the south.

The cities of Rancho Cordova and Folsom have raised concerns about heavy truck traffic from the sites. Rancho Cordova filed a lawsuit over the county's approval of the Teichert project, saying it didn't adequately address traffic.

But Cyrus Abhar, the city's public works director, told supervisors Wednesday that he expected a county traffic plan to address the city's concerns.

The traffic plan, scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors next week, will direct truck traffic to certain roads, and place limits on how often they can be used, said Abhar, who sat on a committee that came up with the plan.

Another issue for the proposed mines is ranching. The largely undeveloped section of the county has many cattle ranches, and some of the ranchers worry about the impact of mining on cows.

Pamela Payen, who owns a ranch next to the proposed Stoneridge Quarry, said she has spoken to a University of California, Davis, professor familiar with the harm animals can suffer from mining. She said the professor will monitor her livestock when the mining starts.

An attorney representing Tsakopoulos said the mine would restrict blasting operations to limit the impact on cows.

He also agreed to monitor water supply, another concern of ranchers. Payen said she's concerned about water levels in the area, and that the mine will diminish the limited supply.