

# Quarry plan alarms north state residents; meeting focuses on environmental concerns in area

Joe Szydowski, Redding Record Searchlight, 1-27-12

SHASTA LAKE — Traffic, pollution, wildlife, explosions and water quality were some of the worries that north state residents raised Thursday night about a proposed quarry near Shasta Lake.

"Who wants it in their backyard?" said Rob Sampley, 54. His home on Flintstone Avenue would be the third closest to the quarry in Mountain Gate.

He joined more than 100 others who packed into the John Beaudet Community Center on Thursday to explain their concerns about the Moody Flats LLC. quarry. The organization, a subsidiary of 3M, has expressed interest in creating a quarry larger than any of the 28 aggregate plants in Shasta County. It would produce up to 2 million tons of aggregate a year, and have 489 one-way vehicle trips per day.

The quarry would conduct blasting on weekdays and would be open between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., though train and truck loading would take place 24 hours, seven days a week.

The meeting was to get ideas on potential environmental problems the quarry could cause, said Ben Ritchie, principal of the De Novo Planning Group.

De Novo was hired to examine those issues in an environmental impact report, he said.

One issue is pollution, said Cliff Jacoby, who said he's worked most of his life in quarries.

"When the north wind blows this city will be covered in dust," he said. "It comes in through the door, through the (air conditioner), through cracks in the floor and cracks in the door."

Jacoby said drainage could be a problem, as could its proximity to the city of Shasta Lake.

He said blasting at the site would be about half the strength of a plant he worked at in Soledad.

"The city of Soledad was three miles away. It shook Soledad," he said.

Shasta Lake City Councilman Greg Watkins said he worries about the quarry using Digger Bay Road, on the west side of the lot, as an access route. Sampley said he isn't opposed to mining — he does welding work for some mines. But he said he worries about the proximity as most mines in the area are remote.

He added that no one seemed concerned with Mountain Gate, which lies on the eastern border of the proposed quarry.

Ritchie said the report will focus on the impact on the environment in both small and large communities.

"It doesn't look at (population)," he said. "It's not more of an impact if it's 1,000 than if it's 100."

He said the report should take about a year to prepare.