

Double jeopardy for quarry

Plan fights twice for approval by county supervisors

Charles Doud, Madera Tribune, 4-14-10

A gravel quarry planned for property on Road 209 came before the Madera County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, with the developers and county planning staff members hoping it will be approved a second time.

It was approved by the supervisors in 2006, the first time it came before them, but a court challenge resulted in the approval being overturned.

The court set new environmental requirements for the quarry operators, and the project has been reduced to a 2 1/2-inch-thick set of documents and maps in which the developer agrees to hold to certain environmental restrictions, rebuild Road 209 to handle the big trucks that would come and go daily, provide a bond for water mitigation measures and pay a tax of 5 cents a ton to provide a fund that could be used for any improvements on any roads the county deemed necessary.

The planning staff, the developer and a parade of opponents -- most of them neighbors of the site -- appeared Tuesday before the board during a 2 1/2-hour hearing.