

Cemex, Lemon Cove neighbors with dry wells continue settlement talks

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Rob Morton stands next to two large 55-gallon drums he said he had to use to bring water to his property after his supply was eliminated as a result of a Cemex gravel mine operation near his property between Lemon Cove and Lake Kaweah. ERIC PAUL ZAMORA — THE FRESNO BEE | [Buy Photo](#)

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The Tulare County Planning Commission on Tuesday put off until April 5 a continued public hearing about complaints that wells are going dry at homes next to the Cemex Stillwell gravel mine in Lemon Cove.

Lawyers for both Cemex and the mine neighbors told commissioners they are still in negotiations to reach a settlement and asked for another 30 days to meet before reporting to the commission.

Neighbors said their wells went dry for about a year after the mine stopped putting water into a groundwater recharge ditch, in potential violation of its mining permit.

Cemex said drought caused the wells to go dry. A hydrologist hired by the county said drought was a factor but lack of water in the ditch contributed.



In September, Cemex resumed putting water into the ditch and wells have water in them again, neighbors said.

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