

## Gravel mine gets OK from Fresno County Planning Commission

A 619-acre gravel mining project on the Kings River, east of Sanger, was approved Thursday by the Fresno County Planning Commission.

By a 5-1 vote, planning commissioners backed the Running Luck Ranch mining project near Riverbend and Goodfellow avenues. It includes 351 acres of farmland reclamation to replace an equal portion of land that will be taken out of agricultural production, said John Buada, who represents the group. The project is proposed in phases over a 75-year period. The other 268 acres will revert to agriculture as those phases are completed.

As a response to concerns about noise, Buada said, landowners raised the height of a berm and added more noise suppression equipment.

Noise, traffic and air quality were listed as three “significant unavoidable impacts” of the project, according to environmental documents.

The project is expected to produce 1.25 million tons of rock yearly and will help meet the Fresno-area’s construction demands.

About a dozen opponents spoke against the project, citing potential traffic, water and noise issues.

Cumulative impacts from all gravel mines in the area were not addressed by the application for the project, said John Gray, a Running Luck Ranch neighbor who opposes the gravel mine. He said traffic, dust and water evaporation should have been considered in environmental documents.

An appeal must be filed in 15 days for the issue to heard by Fresno County supervisors.

Contact Marc Benjamin: [mbenjamin@fresnobee.com](mailto:mbenjamin@fresnobee.com), (559) 441-6166 or [@beebebenjamin](https://twitter.com/beebebenjamin) on Twitter.