

Limited evening operations OK'd for Felton quarry

By **STEVE SHENDER**

Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — Lone Star Industries will be permitted to conduct limited evening operations at its Olympia Quarry in Felton, under a mining permit approved today by the Board of Supervisors.

Under the terms of the permit, which was given final approval by the board, the company will be permitted to carry on its full operations from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Processing activities at the quarry will be allowed to continue to 8 p.m. on weekdays.

Lone Star is to conduct noise tests in the surrounding area over the course of the summer, and the county zoning administrator is to decide, on the basis of the test results, whether to permit the evening processing operations to continue.

As tentatively approved last week, the permit would have allowed evening processing operations only two days a week.

An acoustical engineer retained by Lone Star said then that such a restriction would make it impossible to run adequate noise tests.

The expansion of evening processing from two to five days a week was approved by the board at the request of Fifth District Supervisor Joe Cucchiara.

Today's action by the board marked the end of a saga which began in 1983, when supervisors first tried to write a permit for the Felton quarry.

That attempt was aborted when Lone Star successfully fought the move in court. The court said then that some of the requirements the county had sought to impose on the quarry were either unreasonable or unsupported by facts. The court ordered the county and Lone Star to negotiate an agreement on the disputed permit conditions.

The permit approved today was the outcome of extensive negotiations between the county, Lone Star and area residents over such questions as water quality safeguards, protection of various plant species and one species of butterfly, and hours of operation.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Patton registered a lone vote of opposition to the quarry permit, which was approved on a 3-1 vote. Fourth District Supervisor E. Wayne Moore was absent.