

Re, Alice

From: Kathy Downs <kathydowns51@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2015 7:19 AM
To: Jacob, Dianne
Subject: El Monte Valley Sand Mine

Supervisor Jacob, I just received something from a former East County resident about the proposed sand mining in the El Monte Valley. You have supported us for so many years and have been so concerned about the back country and the environment. So I hope you vote no on this. Below is a letter that Change.org has posted on Facebook. They have it going to Supervisor Horn, but I wanted to forward it to you also. Thank you.

Kathy Downs
Alpine, CA

Dear Supervisors:

The El Monte Valley is one of the treasures of San Diego County.

I am writing to let you know how important I think the recreational, historic, habitat, and water resources are in El Monte Valley. The proposed sand mining plan (El Monte Nature Preserve) would threaten the third largest aquifer in San Diego County as a trade off for sand. I think it is far more important to protect the water, habitat, recreational and the agricultural values of El Monte Valley.

The State of California, the County of San Diego, various communities and local citizen donors have contributed 10's of millions of dollars to create the San Diego River Park. This 52-mile, park from the mountains to the sea, is being developed for everyone to enjoy. The El Monte Valley has always been envisioned as the crown jewel in this park system because of its proximity to the urban centers of San Diego. Known for its stunning beauty, the historic flume trail, its equestrian uses, and diverse wildlife, this sand mine would compromise the beauty of the El Monte Valley and the San Diego River Park effort forever.

I am also concerned about the threat of Valley Fever (*Coccidioides immitis* or *Coccidioides posadasii*) posed by the proposed sand mine in El Monte Valley. The valley is a hotspot for this illness in East County. Because schools, ball fields, homes and urban centers are located within the prevailing wind patterns of the valley, many people would be