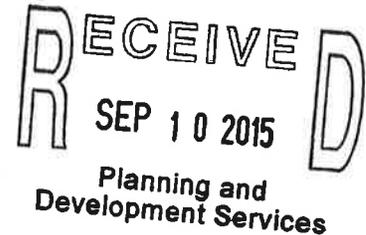


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September 7, 2015

County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123



Re: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2. {DS2015-RP-15-001, Log No. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the proposed project referenced above, we categorically oppose any development of the San Diego River in El Monte Valley.

Lakeside residents have been subjected to Powerlink in our backyards, and are already compromised with less and less access to open area use for biking, hiking, and horseback trail riding. There are already several sand mining operations within the Lakeside area; to add more to an already impacted area would be irresponsible at best, and a violation of the very tenants Lakeside was built upon. Rural in character, housing one of the few rodeo grounds left, horse ownership per capital one of the highest in the nation, Lakeside doesn't need or want additional eyesores to our community.

Further, such projects do not bring any benefit to the area. There are no tax benefits to the community. Roads are not improved based on these businesses. Schools are not improved with additional tax dollars. There is no significant job creation. Traffic to surrounding areas is already overloaded with traffic to Barona Casino and Resort. Our local high school suffers the impact already: students are often seen taking their life in their hands by walking along Ashwood to access their school grounds. It almost took an act of God for one resident to hound Dianne Jacobs office for traffic calming measure to be taken along Willow Road, where horses have been hit and killed by moving vehicles, and local residents attempting to turn onto their own side streets have been rear ended by what we assume are persons intent on getting to the casino quickly. We stand in solidarity with the residents along the roads stated in the plan; El Monte Road and Lake Jennings Road residents are already plagued by boaters heading to the El Capitan reservoir. And while the plan notes the historical agricultural use, it fails to address the impact to crop areas and the dairy.

The reference and name of this project as a Nature Preserve is an obvious attempt to mischaracterize the nature of the proposed plan. Anyone with a horse who attempts to ride locally, or those interested in walking along the Riverwalk project, are already assaulted by the affects of the current sand mining in the area. "Recreational trail easements" as referenced in the plan is a laughable attempt to appease local users of the area. Few environmental impact studies (if any) serve to adequately taken into consideration the true impact of development, and is usually just one step in the process to get a project approved.

These are not simple objections that can be characterized by NIMBY. Lakeside already has enough projects that were unwanted in other areas, and we can only assume homeowners' objections were overridden at the time by San Diego County officials and the large companies that want to do business here. Place this project in a less dense area, where the land is not already used to enjoy a walk or a ride. We find it hard to believe that the County of San Diego cannot find a more suitable place to obtain the aggregate materials referenced in the plan.

We cannot state our objections emphatically enough to the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Van Nostrand



Antonina M. Van Nostrand

cc: Dianne Jacobs, County Supervisor