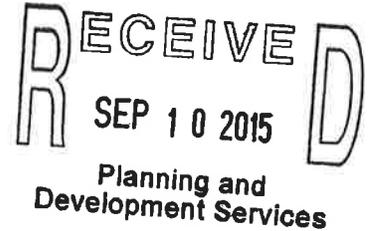


September 8, 2015

Planning and Development Services  
Reference PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2,  
PDS2015-RP-15-001 Log No. PDS2015-ER-98-14016B  
Attention Jim Bennett  
5510 Overland Avenue, Ste. 310  
San Diego, CA 92123



Dear Mr. Bennett,

I'm writing in hopes to share my concerns regarding Sand Mining in El Monte Valley. I grew up in the valley, along with many close friends. I rode the bus to Lindo Lake Elementary with many who are now raising families in this valley. I recently was married at my parent's home, a home in which they've resided for 35 years. Our family and friends were in awe of the beauty of the valley and it's pristine views of El Capitan. Lakeside is no longer the tourist attraction it was in the early 20th century when city folk took the train out to race and bet on automobiles speeding around Lindo Lake, but it is the backyard and playground of East County.

Since I was a little girl I've watched El Monte Road teem with families towing boats and jet skis down to the reservoir every weekend, neighbors riding horse trails through the valley, the Van Ommerings bringing calves into the world on Dairy Road, peacocks and coyotes roaming the valley, paragliders making triumphant landings from the hills of Blossom Valley. I've had multiple friends married on ranches and private homes in the valley. Every one of their special days picturesque with mountain views, fresh air and surrounded by nature. In college, a professor ran a biology field trip in El Monte Valley where hundreds of plant species reside. It truly breaks my heart to think of what will happen to this sanctuary with constant drilling and trucks hauling aggregate, driving in and out of the valley, day in, day out, 12 hours a day for the next 15-20 years.

If this project proceeds, it will DESTROY the valley. There is an abundance of birds species, rabbits, lizards, bobcats, coyotes, insects, ranch and dairy animals, and FAMILIES that make their homes in this area. I want to know what happens to these hundreds of families who live here, those who have devoted a lifetime to improving their homes and surrounding property. Suddenly will they have no wells? No clean air to breathe because it is filled with the dust of sand mining? The noise of drilling filling every waking moment? What about what they would be exposing all the residents to when digging around in sand that surely must be full of fungus from the riverbed? What about the fact that people have spent their life's savings trying to own property here to get away from it all? What will happen to the dairy, the ranches, family businesses and park who provide for the community?

Please let my voice be heard.

Sincerely,  
Samantha Atlas DiPirro-Beard

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha", written over the typed name.



