

September 11, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Public Comment for El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve (PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO> PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B)

**FROM:** Ray and Anna Ellis, Property OWNERS @15725 Miss Ellie Lane Lakeside, CA 92040

**TO:** Board Of Supervisors

In regard to the proposed sand mine being proposed by Land Leases' on Helix Water District property in the El Monte Valley, we would like to go on record as being against this project for the following reasons:

- a) **Silica Dust Exposure-** because sand must be mined and loaded to be removed, these actions will create silica dust above safe levels of exposure published by the CDC. Silica Dust is a known Carcinogen (visit link below for additional information). Long term exposure to residents living in "the hot zone" of this project must be eliminated in order to avoid legal action by the El Monte Valley residents.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/awards/hamilton/pdfs/crystal-silica.pdf>
- b) **Coccidioidomycosis:** Valley Fever spores have been detected in the soil across the proposed mining site. By removing and transporting the product the risk of spreading valley fever must be avoided.
- c) **Increased Traffic / Roadway Maintenance Cost-** We request quantification of the projected traffic increase and additional costs to county budget to maintain the roadways that will be utilized by the project; Included roadways are:
  - a. Willow Road
  - b. El Monte Road
  - c. Mapleview Street
  - d. Lake Jennings Parkway
  - e. State Highway 67
  - f. Vigilante Road,
  - g. Slaughterhouse Canyon Road
- d) **Blight-** Open Pit Mining is known to destroy appealing views which can be tied to lower property values. We request visual simulations of the project be prepared and provided prior to the CEQA EIR and during the CEQA NOP scoping period that visual analysis be included following the BLM's visual resource management system to allow the BOS's

and the public to fully understand how the project would alter the scenic values of the area in a vetted manner.

- e) **Questionable Zoning-** Zoning for this area was changed in 1979 to allow for mineral extraction. This change was made illegally by the BOS without the proper public comment period.
  
- f) **Budget Requirements-** We request a Full Economic Impact Report be prepared to outline project cost to county residents. We request this Economic Report include the following:
  - a. Full Cost Analysis of the Environmental Mitigation Measures
  - b. Taxed Based Income to the County
  - c. Employment of Local Residents
  - d. Potential Cost of a BOS's elected position
  
- g) **Conservation-**The project area lies within the Golden Eagle Forage area as outlined by the U. S. Department of Interior. The El Monte Valley is home to sets of Nesting Golden Eagles and we feel the project could disrupt or cause relocation of these Eagles. There are also several species listed in the Multiple Species Conservation Plan of San Diego County that could be impacted by the project.
  
- h) **Restoration-**The project is being portrayed as an environmentally friendly restoration of the river valley to its original state. If the project is approved we request an escrow account be established and all profits be deposited to cover the entire cost of restoration before the owner/builder can seek profit.

And finally, as property owners we are allowed to freely use 2 acres of a nine acre parcel. The remaining seven acres are deemed "Open Space" by the county of San Diego. As property owners and tax payers we find it appalling that this project would even be considered due to its size and the fact that the project owners are not land owners within the El Monte Valley.

We request these comments be entered into the public record.

Thank You



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