

## Hingtgen, Robert J

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**To:** Bennett, Jim  
**Subject:** RE: El Monte Sand Mining Operation

**From:** Sandie Seckington [<mailto:puestadelsol152@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 13, 2015 9:28 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Jim  
**Subject:** Fw: El Monte Sand Mining Operation

I'm sorry, forgot to add the extra "t" on your last name in the first try!

On Sunday, September 13, 2015 9:18 PM, Sandie Seckington <[puestadelsol152@yahoo.com](mailto:puestadelsol152@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Bennett:

My husband and I have been in the El Monte Valley for approximately 26 years; 13 years as boarders at an equine boarding facility in the valley, and property owners since 2002. We have major concerns about Mr. Adams' second attempt at mining the valley- first under the guise of the development of a golf course and now under the pretense of "restoring and preserving" our valley's ecosystem.

Our concerns are many:

1. Of primary concern is the threat to the valley's aquifer and groundwater resources. Not only are we in a severe drought situation, but valley residents ALL rely on wells and the impact of severe depth mining and disturbance of the natural flow of the aquifer, not to mention almost certain compromising of water quality is totally unacceptable.
2. Our valley is KNOWN to harbor Valley Fever. You heard from a person at the EIR meeting who suffered from it. How in the world can our residents and visitors, including the many children who accompany families to Oma's Pumpkin Patch, El Monte Park and El Capitan Reservoir be protected against 15 - 25 years of mining and resulting dust?
3. The destruction of our very diverse and biologically important wildlife - mammals, birds, reptiles that inhabit the valley and use it as a natural corridor- is unconscionable. The mining operations, especially over such an extended period of time, will desecrate or dislocate whole populations of wildlife - much of whom provide prey for our rich families of hawks and golden eagles. The whole ecosystem will be irreparably altered. I can personally testify that a male mountain lion visits our valley each spring and passes through our property. I have seen him twice and know from our dogs' reactions whenever it passes through. Members of the Audobon Society have observed our property and told my husband that they have observed a rare finch here. How in the world can this mining operation be remotely considered a "preservation and restoration" activity?

4. The valley is visited by many, many local and out-of-state visitors for its recreational activities, including bicyclists, boaters, fishermen, families picnicking at El Monte Park, horse owners who live in the valley or board here. Its roads have been designated "scenic corridors" by the County of San Diego. A huge sand mining operation spanning 15 - 25 years that tears up and desecrates the valley certainly violates that designation.

5. Having gone through Mr. Adams' first mining venture that supposedly would create a lovely golf course that would support local wildlife, etc., we can tell you unequivocally that the presence of the hundreds of trips by enormous trucks removing the sand from the valley is very dangerous to local residents, visitors, bicyclists and horribly impacts the intersection of Lake Jennings Park Road and El Monte Road and also Maplevue and Highway 67. The congestion was unbelievable. And the current project is going to extend 6 days a week over 15 - 25 years??? I can also testify that my husband and I, during the relatively short span of the "golf course" construction / mining operation, had to leave at least 20 - 30 minutes early for work, and I personally had very close encounters with large trucks on our dirt roads connecting Willow Road with El Monte Road where they absolutely would not stop or yield right of way. The waits to get through the intersection of El Monte Road and Lake Jennings Park Road and Maplevue and Hwy 67 were intolerable. In addition, El Monte Road is winding and dangerous under the best circumstances.

6. Finally, there are many other serious concerns, such as devastating loss of property value, loss of businesses such as agriculture and equine boarding facilities in the valley, and quality of life over 15 - 25 years that residents face. It would be sincerely appreciated if these issues were also addressed by the County.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. The issues, on so many fronts, are enormous and severely impact the fragile resources, the wildlife, and the very real families that inhabit the valley.

Sincerely,

Sandra and George Seckington  
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