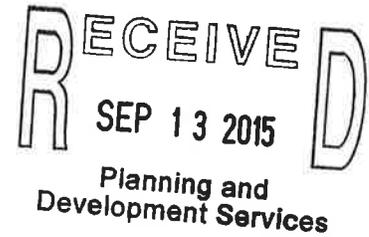


To: Mr. Jim Bennett
County of San Diego Planning and Development Services

Suzanne M. Till
9342 Goyette Place
Santee, CA 92071



Planning and Development Services Reference: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

I am writing to express my concerns of the El Monte Valley Strip Sand Mining Project.

I live downstream of this project and receive my drinking water from Padre Dam Municipal Water District. I am concerned about the impacts of this project to the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin in terms of groundwater recharge and water quality. In addition, I am concerned how this project will impact at present and in the future for the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin in regards to drinking water and source water protection for the Padre Dam Municipal Water District (PDMWD). I have three primary areas of comment:

1. Directed Potable Reuse Project by Water Agencies Downstream:

Since May 2015, PDMWD has been testing a water purification (directed potable reuse) system downstream. In August 2015, the CA State Water Resources Control Board (the agency that provided a grant for this pilot project) had a meeting and toured this new facility. It is my understanding once testing is complete PDMWD purified water will be artificially injected and stored in the Santee-El Monte Valley Groundwater Basin. Both PDMWD and Helix Water District (HWD) will use this water as a potable water source.

Will this project impact current and future drinking water sources from the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin, especially for PDMWD Directed Potable Reuse project described above?

2. Groundwater management agencies and plans:

According to the PDMWD draft plan for the East County Regional Water Reuse Program dated August 13, 2015, page 6:

The Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin is an alluvial aquifer underlying the San Diego River and its tributaries. ... There is no groundwater basin management plan or groundwater sustainability plan at present although a Groundwater Management Planning Study was prepared for the San Diego County Water Authority in 2001. Plans are underway to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Has your environmental review coordinated with and received comments from the CA Department of Water Resources, PDMWD, HWD and San Diego County Water Authority, concerning future plans for a groundwater sustainability agency and plan for the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin? Again I reiterate the importance of given the future use of the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin as an important storage facility for directed potable reuse for East San Diego County.

3. Review of proposed projects by drinking water agencies and departments:

Given the shrinking available potable water sources in this time of drought, it is essential that your environmental assessment notify and receive input from the following water agencies, to include CA DWR, PDMWD, HWD, US Bureau of Reclamation, State of California Water Resources Control Board Advisory Group on Feasibility of Developing Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse, San Diego County Water Authority, and City of San Diego.

I would like to be added to your mailing list for this project, and would like to know when and where there be public meetings for input on this project. A public meeting should be held at the PDMWD at least once to notify rate payers and agencies involved in the directed potable reuse project sponsored by PDMWD for the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin.

Thank you,

Suzanne M. Till
surfingsuzanne@gmail.com