

Reference:

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001016B, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

Attention: Robert Hingtgen

5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310

San Diego, CA. 92123

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to offer my thoughts and ideas about the scope and nature of the environmental impacts that can and will be caused by the El Monte Valley Sand Mining Project. I ask that these concerns be thoroughly Considered in the preparation of the Environmental Statement for this project.

I am concerned that this project will negatively impact the following:

- A. The removal of the sand in the Valley floor will be a concern for the residents who depend on the aquifer in this sand who have wells. I am concerned that this will cause the water table to be contaminated from the dripping and spilling of oil and fuel from the excavating equipment. There is the threat that this contaminated water will cause the wells in the area to become contaminated also.
- B. The removal of the sand, which now is covering the water table, will expose this water table to the elements of nature. The exposed water will become a habitat for the mosquitoes which are carriers of the West Nile virus. It will also expose the water to become contaminated with bacteria not common to the aquifer which is now covered by the sand. This will cause the water table the wells depend on to also be contaminated.
- C. I also have a concern about the disturbing of the sand in the Valley which is known to be infected with the Valley Fever Fungus. This can be carried in the dust created when the sand is dug up, loaded and hauled out. My concern is that the dust carrying the spores would travel with the winds blowing to the west and would expose the children and parents at the Lakeside Little League fields, the people who show horses at the Riding club corrals, the students at El Capitan High school and as the dust blows all those in contact with it. I have been familiar with this valley since 1958. I traveled Willow Road many times visiting friends. In 1972 I purchased my property, on Willow Rd, and built my house, in which I now reside. In the early times there were signs posted at the end of the County Maintained portion of Willow Road stating, "**Danger Valley Fever.**" Those signs were posted in a portion of land to the left side of the dirt road which was also known to have misc Indian Artifacts. The signs were, evidently, posted to warn the people digging for these artifacts that they might become infected with Valley Fever when digging for these artifacts. The signs have been removed but the threat of Valley Fever in the area has not. When the golf course was in progress the land to the right of the road a cap of was soil added over the existing surface. This area was covered up to preserve the Indian Artifacts discovered there as well as covering the area which might have had the Valley Fever Fungus..

- D. The removal of the sand exposes the water to the sun and wind which contributes to the evaporation of the surface area of water. I feel this evaporation will cause the water table to become shallower, over time, and will cause the wells in the area to be in jeopardy of not having that water supply available for use. This is not good especially since, at this time, we have a drought situation. The water table is much lower for the wells. There are some who are now experiencing a shortage of water supply without the sand mining having its effect.
- E. In using El Monte Road for the route to transfer the sand out of the Valley, by the number of trucks calculated for this sand removal, it is going to cause the traffic on El Monte Road to become more congested. This will be a night mare for the people who now use the road for access to their homes, the recreational boaters who use El Capitan Reservoir for fishing and water recreation as well as the people who use El Monte Park for picnicking. The Park offers many avenues for recreation, hiking, mountain climbing, sightseeing and just to get away from city life. This congestion will cause the congestion overflow to be transferred to Willow Road, on the other side of the valley. Willow Road is a private road, not a county maintained road. This road is an easement road for the property owners. This requires the road to be maintained by the homeowners. This overflow traffic will cause this expense to be a burden on the homeowners. When the Golf Course Project was in operation the traffic on Willow Road coming across from El Monte Road was quite Evident. How will this be remedied?
- F. I also have a concern about the sand being removed so close to Willow Road. When we get rain water running off of the rocks on the mountains and it runs down the valleys and floods across Willow Road, at various locations. When this sand is removed, from the area next to the road, what will keep the soil from being eroded into the pit created from the removal of the sand? I have in the past seen this happen and the sand now lies in an elevation that keeps erosion from happening. The pit, being excavated as deep as shown, will cause the water to erode the soil as it flows into the pit. Mother Nature has been doing this for many years in this valley accounting for the flat plain the valley floor now has. This erosion will cause a problem with the road bed as well as the properties that are close to the pit area.
- G. I also have a concern about the completion of the trails and restoration that is supposed to be made when the operation is completed. The Golf Course project is a great example of what happens when the project is not completed. What guarantee is there that the sand mining project won't do the same thing? Same people same problem? Maybe they need to put good faith money up front in a Bond of Guarantee so that the funds will be available if they fail to fulfill the contract.

Sincerely,



Erryl Sloan

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