

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: Comments for Environmental Impact Report El Monte Sand Mine

-----Original Message-----

From: JOSETTE FRANKEL [mailto:josettefrankel@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 12:18 PM

To: Bennett, Jim

Subject: RE: Comments for Environmental Impact Report El Monte Sand Mine

Dear Jim,

Gosh! I'm going to cut and paste. Tried to send this material through "Mail" and did not get any response therefore Safari:

9/12/2015

Mr. Jim Bennett

County of San Diego Planning and Development Services

5510 Overland Ave. Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92123

ATTN: Mr. Mark Wardlaw, Mr. Darren Gretler, Ms. Mindy Fogg, Mr. Robert Hingtgen

RE: Notice of preparation of environmental impact report: El Monte Nature Preserve Project

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I truly appreciate your close attention to this complex matter. Please allow this letter to supersede my other comments written in the heat of the moment at our general meeting and in my e-mail on 9/10 as I further reviewed the important reasons why the application from El Monte Nature Preserve Project should be denied:

Valley Fever spores: A fungus known to be in the soil of El Monte Valley releases airborne spores when the soil is disturbed. Symptoms: flu, difficulty breathing, exhaustion, skin rash, muscle ache and joint pain as related by Dr. Christy Walker, MD, and Epidemiologist, Dr. Sue Erickson, August 25, 2015 at the public citizen's meeting at the Lakeside Community Church. Think, increased incidents and lawsuits. Please study this issue comprehensively.

Contamination and Loss of San Diego Tourism Income: 480 to 500 trucks filled with contaminated sand raising dust and releasing Valley Fever spores into the air on private dirt roads, streets and freeways for twenty years every day of the year, except for holidays.(Estimated removal of sand 15 to 18 million tons of per year) Will this infected dust pose a clear and present danger to all of Southern California? Think, Santa Ana winds! Please study impact on health and tourism.

West Nile Virus, etc: Once the sand is removed, will the underground sludge exposed to the elements grow bacteria and attract mosquito larvae? Think, West Nile Virus and other vectors. Please study how West Nile Virus, malaria, dengue fever, chikungunia fever are transmitted.

Erosion and Water Pollution: Would soil erosion occur once the vegetation and sand are gone? What about the well-water quality? Think, El Nino floods! Please study the erosive effects of floods.

Release of Chemicals, Poisons, and Bacteria: Will a flood dislodge the protective measures the county put in place to keep the soil from contamination from an ancient garbage dump located on a hundred-year flood plain? Where would the mud, the water, the boulders, and the debris go? Think, water contamination! Please study and predict the potential and the location of contaminant plumes.

Traffic Jam Nightmare: With so much traffic on the roads, will there be hazards driving and breathing contaminated dust on a two way dirt road in an impassable traffic jam? Will the residents become virtual prisoners in their own home? Will schools have to change their schedule to accommodate traffic problems? In case of fire or medical emergency, what is the escape route? Think accidents, blight, depression, illness, loss of animals, and income with no emergency exit! Please complete a detailed comprehensive traffic study which takes into account trucks, service vehicles, employee vehicles, level of service and particulate exhaust in a confined valley. Please develop an emergency plan.

Water Waste: Will water be wasted in order to separate the sand from the soil, and deflect the growth of mosquitoes? The El Monte Sand Mine proposes to use water, enormous quantities, which we can't afford in these days of drought. Think, threat to the aquifer and loss of water! Please complete a detailed study of changes in the population's density if the wells run dry. Please complete a detailed ground water study that examines upstream and downstream impact from the base of the dam to the border with the city of Santee.

Destruction of the beauty of El Monte Scenic Valley Corridor: With the removal of the vegetation on 500 acres and the destruction of wild animal and protected species, will this beautiful, rugged natural land from the mountains to the sea, still be a healthy recreational outlet? Think, blight and loss of recreational facility! Please complete a detailed protocol biological survey and provide a comprehensive study of all vertebrate and invertebrate species.

Loss of Property Values: With the destruction of the topography, the noise, dust, airborne diseases, increased traffic, might there also be an economic loss to the people of the county of San Diego? People moved there for specific reasons: the quiet, the ability to ride horses, the fresh air, and to enjoy a rural bucolic environment. Think consequences to the loss of an irreplaceable scenic, wild environment, traffic problems and fears of increased airborne diseases! Please complete a study and prediction of the potential economic consequences to the value of the real estate of Lakeside, the possible loss of property values as well as changes in the density of the population and character of the environment.

Human life, animal life, property values, private roads, agriculture, business, protected species, and recreation in the wild: do they matter? I am now 81. Would I have to wait till I am 101 to enjoy or sell my land, and in the meantime pay taxes and assume the cost of keeping it fire proof? A greater vision needs to accommodate the community as well as the financial purposes of Helix Water District and the El Monte Sanding Mine Company, now, "The El Monte Valley Nature Preserve,"one which will be of benefit to everyone concerned. I trust in the integrity and fairness of your decision as your mission statement so powerfully declares: "We strive to balance community, economic and environmental interests to ensure the highest quality of life for the public of San Diego County."

JOSETTE FRANKEL, 2881 Arcola Ave, San Diego, CA 92117 858-581-9046, josettefrankel@sbcglobal.net

So sorry if you can duplicates, and thanks again!

Josette

On Mon, 9/14/15, Bennett, Jim <Jim.Bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov> wrote:

Subject: RE: Comments for Environmental Impact Report El Monte Sand Mine