From:	Judy Soule
To:	Fogg, Mindy; Hingtgen, Robert J
Subject:	El Monte Sand Mine
Date:	Monday, September 14, 2015 1:08:17 PM

Hello Members of the County Planning & Development Services,

I have been a resident of Lakeside since 1977. I have seen many changes in the Lakeside area over the years; many of them are wonderful improvements made by the County. I do not see the proposed El Monte Sand Mine as anything but a negative black mark on our Community and a blight on a wonderful rural area in the County.

The Public Forum on August 26th was helpful to me in understanding the proposed Sand Mine and opened my eyes to so many problems that may arise if the Sand Mine is approved. I do not see how the owners can mitigate the severity of the following physical, biological, and economic impact brought to light by so many knowledgeable and concerned residents:

1. Destruction of Riparian Habitat, Flora and Fauna:
Folks going to El Monte Park to enjoy the open rural area will have an ugly sand mine to view instead of open space and natural habitat. The area's flora and fauna will be destroyed. El Monte Park and the surrounding rural area has been enjoyed by generations and should continue for years to come. Please review Chapter 5 of the County's General Plan:
http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/gpupdate/docs/BOS_Aug2011/C.1-4_Conservation_and_Open_Space.pdf

2. Damage to Public and Private Property by dropping the Groundwater Table:
Sand mining would leave drinking water wells for residents in the area at great risk! Without good water wells, their property values go to zero! Wells are their only source of water.

3. Water quality:
"Increased short-term turbidity at the mining site due to re suspension of sediment, sedimentation due to stockpiling and dumping of excess mining materials and organic particulate matter, and oil spills or leakage from excavation machinery and transportation vehicles" (PLEASE REVIEW this website:
http://threeissues.sdsu.edu/three_issues_sandminingfacts01.htmlite:)

4. Disturbing the soil may increase risk to the Community for Valley Fever. A complete study of this possibility should most certainly be included in the Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). My husband is a heart transplant recipient and has a compromised immune system. This could be deadly for him! We live very close to the El Monte area.

5. Sand mining almost always includes a standing body of water which will contribute to a growing mosquito population and possible West Nile Virus outbreak.

6. The people who purchased homes in the area did so because they prefer a rural lifestyle and appreciate life in a more natural environment. A sand mine project along the riverbed will most certainly destroy their property values and even if the area is retrofitted into a "nature preserve" after 15 years -- what kind of lifestyle and

damage will be done to their property values in the meantime. What about the rights of the residential property owners? As a matter of fact, some folks purchased property in the area based on the fact that the subject property was designated as a proposed golf course!

7. The road to El Capitan Reservoir is a 2 lane road, traveled by local residents, El Monte Park visitors, and folks going to El Capitan Reservoir with trailers and boats. Adding heavy equipment and trucks hauling sand will make an already dangerous roadway even worse!

This Sand Mine is a terrible idea !

There is little evidence that the property was ever going to be a golf course EXCEPT for the 18 acres of sand mining they did without permits (making it look like they were working toward their planned project). Seeing the amount of sand produced was probably an ahha moment for them. Sand mining would certainly produce more income than a golf course! so they decided to change their permit to sand mining? They have not returned their current "eye sore" sand dredging operation and pond back to its natural state, so what guarantees do we have that they will complete their mining in 15 year and make reparations?

After the proposed 15 year period of sand extraction, the owners could request an extension of time -- making the negative impact last even longer.

The Community and the local residents should not have to wait out the number of years it will take to complete the plan and revert a sand mine into a "Nature Preserve". Do we really trust the owners to create a "Nature Preserve" as good as it currently exists? I think not.

I believe the owners of the property proposing the sand mine have rights too. They should have an opportunity to get something from their investment; however, if they made a bad investment decision in the first place -- why do we need to suffer the consequences of their loss? There must be something else they can do with the land to salvage their investment, but they should not receive a permit to change the use from a golf course to a sand mine.

Please do not approve the proposed project in its current or any revised form.

Thank you,

Judy Soule