

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: El Monte Sand Mining & Nature Preserve

From: kathleen digenan [<mailto:kdigenan@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 12:01 PM

To: Bennett, Jim

Subject: El Monte Sand Mining & Nature Preserve

I am writing to express my concerns with the Sand Mining project in the El Monte Valley in Lakeside.

A major concern is the truck traffic that will be generated. The road out of El Monte Valley is a two lane road with one exit that is a four way stop. Your first option at the four way stop is left up Lake Jennings Road. This is a steep grade that trucks with full loads would take slowly and have to shift several times to get to the top. At the top the two lanes narrow to one. Once they reach the top, they have to slow for the first of two traffic lights. The two traffic lights are only a few hundred feet apart and are major entrance and egress points for thousands of residences including a fire station and I-8 at Lake Jennings. The I-8 at this point is two lanes. The on ramp is traffic light controlled at peak hours, so trucks would have to stop at this point also and slowly merge onto the two lane freeway. This traffic is already congested with traffic from the entire East county and beyond.

Your second option at the four way stop at the end of El Monte Road is right onto Maplevue, which has three traffic lights. Between the lights there are many spots where cars cross traffic to get to residences including several apartment complexes. The light at Ashwood is the major intersection for El Capitan High School. Morning, mid-day and afternoon traffic at this intersection is already highly congested. Many drivers in this area are young and beginning drivers. Unfortunately, this is already a challenging area for these drivers. The heavy truck traffic would only add to the dangerous conditions. Foot, bike, and skateboard traffic in this area is also very dense.

One block from this intersection is the major intersection at Highway 67. This is a high traffic corridor with traffic feeding from I-8, 52 and I-15 freeways. All traffic to and from these freeways come to a stop-lighted intersection. Waits at these traffic lights can be as high as 5 minutes. All east county traffic would be heavily impacted by the truck traffic from this project.

Proponents of this project say it would reduce ozone levels due to trucks not driving as far for sand. Realistically, this is a farce due to the congestion of traffic that the trucks would cause.

Add to all of this, is the fact that these roads are not constructed to handle the heavy trucks and will crumble beneath them.

As you can see this is a terrible problem for thousands and thousands of citizens that can not be overlooked or mitigated.

Thank you for your consideration and time on this matter.

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