

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Public Commentary, thank you.

From: Linda Hughes [<mailto:lindahughes08@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 4:31 PM

To: Bennett, Jim; Mindy.Kohl@sdcounty.ca.gov; Jacob, Dianne; Bill Ray; bill.osborne@uniontrib.com; loganjenkins@utsandiego.com

Subject: Public Commentary, thank you.

COMMENTARY REGARDING PROPOSED EL MONTE VALLEY SAND-MINING OPERATION

Dear Esteemed and Hard-Working People;

Thank you kindly for considering the following, along with with so much other input. I present this commentary from an alternate perspective, one I hope steps back from the finite to offer a look at the situation as a whole. If it hasn't yet been done, I advise the readers to understand there is a story lurking in these facts, and these facts MUST be made known to you. There is peril in willful ignorance and/or failure to fully, properly investigate to obtain the information you lack. I speak not about 'peril' as in danger to the environment [though, of course, that figures heavily, has been discussed *ad nauseum*, and will NOT be a topic herein], I mean we do not want a scandal to break wide open over something as simple to dispose of as this.

This is San Diego County: one of the most adored and beloved places to be, WORLDWIDE, and we are watched with interest. What's not to like? We are not Palm Springs... not dealing with a scandal (but hold on). Scandal would not be good.

Maybe a local government gets mixed up with a shady character, of questionable reliability and lack of verifiable references, over a deal the government permitted, which ruined a pristine valley and the lives of its long-time inhabitants, netted the guy millions in illegal land-grab and subsequent sales of mining rights (to whom- or whatever), and to top it all in the public-relations blot, would be that all who signed on-board to the sand-mine will be remembered as having given the thumbs up to wasting *milions and millions of gallons* of purest WATER, during times of severe drought.

Yes, WASTING WATER! When there are legal, but moreover, moral and ethical reasons to conserve water, and the sustaining of LIFE is top-priority for its usage, the world will be amazed and dumb-founded that so much of this precious resource is put to privately-profitable use washing sand out of dirt.

Gee, the county must really be getting some HUGE BENEFIT from giving out the permit [or this is too moronic for words]. Here is the benefit: The county gets the opportunity to purchase the sand at market prices, along with everybody else. [...] It is likely to get stuck paying for damage to infrastructure et al, as a bonus.

Kindly understand how late this is being written, and how little independent research I have done. The following is based on hearsay, but, as retired deputy public defender, it's sure that people talk a lot more freely than they write it down or testify to it. How you investigate now may impact what happens to your legacies.

God be with you.

- * Cannot verify anything about El Monte Valley Nature Preserve, nor its purported owner.
- * The entity involved w/trying to get the golf-course going is the sand-mining approval-seeker here. As such, when things fell through, Entity threatened a lawsuit against land-owner Helix, which "settled" by way of guaranteeing money for Helix and 3 years to buy the land for Entity. Except this is an end-run attempt to avoid the required notice regarding the sale of publicly-held property and solicitation of bids therefor. This was merely a lease agreement, to begin.
- * Contractual provisions are so loose and sloppy and unspecific in detail that the rights to the mine may be "assigned" (sold, transferred), so now whoever buys in has no true privity w/county, and little interest in toeing the compliance and promise-fullfillment lines, many of which are vague, like: "to be developed at a later date," or are "subject to change." After all, even if the one-time-a-year inspection gets them in trouble, all that happens is they "may get issued a violation". Big Deal. Pay a fine. Yeah, check's in the mail...).
- * Whoever was using heavy equipment on the original golf-course work violated county codes right off the bat. Same Entity now assures everything will be taken care of.
- * There are several people watching and scrutinizing actions, dealings/relations, quotes of MICHAEL BECK. All I know, personally, is that he is of importance to Supervisor Jacob; others believe anything he says or does supporting this project is a conflict of interest based on information they have gathered.
- * A gent who videos, with fire in his eyes, is embarking on a campaign to ... "visit precincts in Helix Water District" to petition for its board's recall, and see what shakes loose inside the Water District headquarters.

This is most respectfully submitted. If there is anything I may assist with, do let me know.

Very truly yours,

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