From:	Vilia Baird
To:	Hingtgen, Robert J; Bennett, Jim
Subject:	CEQA comment
Date:	Monday, September 14, 2015 9:27:29 AM

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2,PDS2015-RP-15-001,LOG NO.PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

Attention Jim Bennett

09/13/2015

Dear Mr. Bennett

I am writing to offer my thoughts and ideas as to the nature and scope of the environmental impacts that can and will be caused by the sand mining project proposed by El Monte Nature Preserve LLc. I ask for your serious consideration and investigation into the following matters when preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

-loss of a very significant aquifer due contamination and evaporation when exposed to the surface. The sand that is the center of this project is a vital part of the natural ground water filtration, storage and distribution processes and in effect removing the sand will affect the natural environments ability to both filter and store water in aquifer significantly.

-what would the impacts to the water quality of the aquifer be when its capacity is reduced and the natural subsurface water is exposed, by removal of the sand, to sunlight, bacteria, microorganisms, and disease vectors like mosquitos. All of which would render the water non potable and although San diego imports a majority of its water resources, it would be a crime to risk this valuable resource.

-what are the potential and real impacts of the project on the residential and agricultural wells both upstream of the project in El monte Valley and even more the wells both private and public downstream of the project, that provide water to Lakeside and Santee.

- the city, county, private groups and the taxpayers have spent millions of dollars restoring and improving the San diego River corridor from Ocean beach to Mission trails, what are impacts of this project on that investment.

-impacts of removing natural alluvial soil from the river bed on the valley's ability to support life both natural and agricultural. Currently the valley is one of the more verdant areas of San diego, reducing the quantity and quality of the naturally occurring soil will reduce the valley’s ability to sustain it current agricultural productivity and beauty.

-impacts on fire protection and prevention in the valley. the valley is a box canyon with one paved two lane road and a dirt road that accesses the north side of the san diego river. This situation is just adequate enough for residents to evacuate during the Cedar fire, now add 250 plus 80 ton trucks a day to the traffic equation. By reducing the valley’s water holding capacity and availability fire protection will be more difficult and increase the amounts of dry material and thus, fire potential.

-what noise impacts will there be to local wildlife and residents. The a open space with unobstructed lines of sight and the acoustics in the valley make sound travel farther and with more intensity. Sensitive wildlife will be driven away by heavy equipment and plant operations.

-impacts on native american dwelling and burial sites. there is at least one surveyed burial site near the project on willow rd. what surveys will be done on and around the site to ensure cultural and historical artifacts and/ or sites will not be damaged before breaking ground.

-impacts of the project bisecting the valley effectively closing wildlife access corridors across the riverbed. El monte valley has a variety of wildlife from coyotes ,lynx and fox to hawks, golden eagles and tricolored blackbird cutting the valley in half at the riverbed would irreversibly alter wildlife behavior and migration

-loss of habitat for raptors, owls and bats in the riverbed. removing the vegetation that exists in the project work area will drive any and all wildlife from their established nesting or den sites.

-onsite fuel storage and fueling impacts. Where and how will fuel and combustibles be stored and disposed.

-what impacts will the project have on the scenic corridor that is the El monte valley

Thank you for your attention

Sincerely,
Matthew Baird

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