

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: I oppose the strip sand mining of El Monte Valley

From: Miranda Hope [<mailto:mirandahope@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 4:36 PM

To: Bennett, Jim; Horn, Bill; Roberts, Dave; diane.jacob@sdcountry.ca.gov; Cox, Greg; Roberts, Ron; Fitzpatrick, Lisa

Subject: I oppose the strip sand mining of El Monte Valley

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to express my opposition to the El Monte Valley Strip Sand Mining Project. Please support me and the entire San Diego community by objecting to, and saying "NO" to the El Monte Valley Nature Preserve LLC strip sand mining project.
(PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B)

Here are just a few of my concerns:

About 18 years or so ago, some of the same people involved with the current strip mining project came to the valley as El Capitan Golf Club LLC. They were permitted to build a golf course on the valley land owned by Helix Water District. They scraped and mounded a good portion of the riverbed leaving it devoid of vegetation and, of course, animals. They left some oak, cottonwood and sycamore trees, but a few of them have died since then from the stress of the disturbance and drought. The golf course seems to have been a ruse for sand mining because they dug huge holes, extracting and selling the sand. Law suits were filed back and forth between Helix and El Capitan Golf concerning whether or not Helix promised to provide additional water (besides the available ground water) to the golf course etc., and other complicated issues. In the end the land was left scarred and ravaged.

The sand mining company calls themselves El Monte Nature Preserve LLC. Their name sounds great, but it's a lie. They say they will "restore" the valley, but a giant pond can not replace the diverse ecosystem that naturally occurs there now. They will be strip mining for 15 years or more. Then re-seed the steep banks of the pond, create sterile 8-foot wide "trails" and call it "restored".

elmontenaturepreservellc.com

Compare to the rich biodiversity and beauty captured in photos and videos by Billy Ortiz:

<https://www.facebook.com/El-Monte-Nature-Preserve-Stop-The-Sand-Mine-In-El-Monte-Valley-1840620092830820/timeline/>

This project is short-sighted and bad not just for the human community living there, but also for the ecosystem and its water, plants, and animals. It may be good for the pockets of a few, but it's bad for San Diego County.

Sincerely,

Miranda Hope
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