
Jamul-Dulzura
Community Planning Group
Unincorporated County of San Diego

FINAL MINUTES, February 22, 2022

Location: On-Line Zoom

Recorder: Eve Nasby

1. **CALL TO ORDER**: Chairperson **Preston Brown** called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Preston Brown, Kevin May, Dan Neirinckx, Janet Mulder, Michael Casinelli, Summer Piper, Rachel Vedder, and Paul Dombkowski.

Absent: Eve Nasby, Paul Romero, Steve Wragg, and Streeter Parker.

Guest: Elizabeth Urquhart, Board Chair of StopCottonwoodSandMine.org.

Excused: None

3. **APPROVAL**: **Preston Brown** made a motion to approve the 2-22-2022 Agenda, and postpone approval of the Minutes for 2-8-2022 which still need to be updated.
The motion passed unanimously.

4. **OPEN FORM**: There was no discussion.

5. **COTTONWOOD SAND MINING PROJECT: Report and Recommendations from the Sub-Committee for a letter to the PDS on the Draft EIR with discussion of the impacts of this project on Jamul.**

Preston Brown said he would like to read the letter that the sub-committee has drafted then open it up for discussion.

The Jamul Dulzura CPG has serious concerns about the adequacy of the DEIR of the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project, and the potentially **Immitigable** impacts of the following issues:

- Traffic
- Emergency Evacuation Routes
- Noise
- Air Quality

TRAFFIC

The impacts on our community were not considered in the DEIR. Residents in the backcountry of Jamul depend on the lifeline of SR-94, an inadequate two-lane highway serving both local and

international traffic, and Jamul Drive to the Willow Glen choke point as a primary and alternative route for daily travel and commutes. Frequently one of these will get clogged by one traffic incident or emergency including brush fires and the traffic immediately rushes to the other route. We have seen both routes come to a complete stand still for hours and we are “trapped”.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ROUTES

Nearly all of our 168 square miles are rated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, (VHFHSZ). The Santa Ana windblown fires from the east, southeast will push us north into Rancho San Diego. This DEIR did not acknowledge Jamul as a “Surrounding Area: nor understand the need for a “Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan” (WFEP). An extractive mining operation with 176 planned trips per day of hauling trucks. There should be extensive preparation for plans to coordinate with the Sheriff Department and protocols for communicating with the public in an emergency evacuation. The DEIR assumes once a day ideal conditions for 10 years, every day.

NOISE

The noise impacts of machinery, erratic blasting and diesel trucks from an open pit strip mining operation have the potential to be very injurious in the long term. Studies have shown consistently over the years the detrimental effects of loud noises on the learning abilities of students in schools near airports or industry. It can be immensely disruptive if sustained over many years and have lasting effects on the young children of the Jamacha Elementary School. These are “significant” and immitigable negative impacts that the DEIR does not adequately address.

Many assumptions are made without scientific evidence or field studies to gauge the possible impacts. Assuming “rule of thumb” solutions like using the distance of 400 feet or the use of plywood walls to deaden sound for neighbors and schools will be less impactful, or tolerable at best is guess work. Acoustics are a science and the applicant in this DEIR did in a valley and this will be felt by residents up the hill in Jamul. We would recommend that additional studies be completed.

AIR QUALITY

The extent of the effects on human and animal health from the silica dust (silicosis) and the spores of fungus coccidioides, (coccidiomycosis/Valley Fever) from this mining are indeterminable. What makes this project so dangerous are the potential long-term health impacts. Medical data has shown that the long-term exposure to silica dust causes irreparable lung damage, resulting in debilitation, suffering, and eventually death. There is no recovery. The residents in Jamul that live nearby and visit and pass through the Cottonwood basin on a daily basis are vulnerable as are our neighbors in Valle de Oro.

The DEIR does not adequately address the “cumulative” effects of various adverse and disruptive elements. This mining operation is all about cumulative effects. The DEIR presented to us today treats everything in isolation as if they could be endured easily for one sunny day.

We recommend the “NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE.”

We reviewed each item with minor questions and suggestions about wording. Summer Piper asked if there was any evidence to support the claim that loud noises of industrial or

commercial type were impairing to the school learning atmosphere. **Summer Piper** said that she has seen too often groups reaching conclusions and not able to provide documentation. **Preston Brown** said this is a very well documented area of study and that this type of letter does not require citations as in a peer review publication. **Janet Mulder** said that we are giving our comment and expressing of our concerns. **Michael Casinelli** also added that we had a right to express what we believe are the harmful impacts on local school from this project. **Preston Brown** stated that he first became aware of these studies when his 2 kids attended a school downtown under the flight path of aircraft landing at San Diego airport. **Elizabeth Urquhart**, Chair Board of the Cottonwoodsandmine.org joined in the discussion and said she had just googled this and found information about this on the EPA website. **Summer Piper** said she was not opposed to the letter but was cautious about accepting claims of proven research without any actual evidence for it.

Preston Brown made the motion that we approve the letter to send to the County PDS. Motion carried unanimously.

6. JDCPG OFFICER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS - None

7. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Preston Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, March 8, 2022 @ 7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes and Agendas can be accessed at
<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/CommunityGroups.html>

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JAMUL-DULZURA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is to represent the best interests of the communities of Jamul and Dulzura while adhering to County of San Diego, California Board of Supervisors Policy I-1.”

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is:

- *To provide a public forum where local citizens can learn about issues of importance to them and their community and provide input.*
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- *To carefully consider all input when advising the county on such issues as planning, land use, discretionary projects, and community and sub-regional plans.*

APPROVED 5/12/2020