

Robert Hingtgen

Re: Cottonwood Sand Mining Project, Comments on Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

November 21, 2019

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The County and project proponent must consider the need of constructing new facilities, including a bypass channel that may be necessary to satisfy the Authority's needs to transfer water between its two drinking water reservoirs.

Proposed sand mining operations cannot interfere nor have a negative effect on the river's ability to convey water to Sweetwater Reservoir.

Comments on Plot Plans

15. The proposed grading shown on the western side of cross-sections B-B' and riprap shown on the eastern side of cross section A-A' of the plans appear to impede the flow of water underneath the Sloan Canyon Road Bridge. It appears that the proposed sand mining basin in cross section B-B' would need to fill up with water first before water can continue flowing downstream to Sweetwater Reservoir; water that would otherwise end up in Sweetwater Reservoir and help reduce Sweetwater Authority's dependence on more expensive imported water supplies.
16. There is no indication on whether the proposed conveyor belt would be temporarily removed from the riverbed during periods of significant rain or planned water releases from Loveland Reservoir. The conveyor belt should be removed during these periods to avoid the likelihood of the conveyor belt being displaced by moving water.
17. The final configuration of the riverbed will be much wider than the existing riverbed channel. This will most likely result in more water being infiltrated into the ground and less water reaching Sweetwater Reservoir. The proposed riverbed final configuration cannot have a negative effect on the river's ability to convey water to Sweetwater Reservoir.
18. Indicate what types of materials and gradation will be used to fill the over excavated areas in the river. Indicate what grading practices will be implemented to key in the proposed reclamation areas onto the existing slopes. If reclamation areas are not keyed in properly onto the existing slopes, backfill materials could erode or get washed away by flowing water and impact water quality in Sweetwater Reservoir.
19. The Authority requests that a Hydrology Study be prepared to inform the draft EIR and provided to the Authority, as discussed in the 2018 Letter. The Hydrology Study shall include proposed facilities within the floodplain, including the SDG&E Tower pad, the conveyor belt, and alternatives discussed above. The Hydrology study should also analyze each phase of the project and note if facilities, equipment, or restored areas could get impacted by river flows and result in further impacts to property or safety.

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The Authority is willing to continue to work with the County and the project proponent to ensure that the source water of approximately 200,000 people is not impacted by the subject project. Authority staff looks forward to the discussion and development of real solutions that will fully mitigate impacts to water quality and the Authority's operations. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Israel Marquez at 619-409-6759 or imarquez@sweetwater.org. The Authority values its relationship with the County and the level of coordination that exists between County staff and Authority staff.

Sincerely,

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY



Ron R. Mosher, P.E.
Director of Engineering

Enclosures: Initial Concerns Letter dated December 13, 2018

RM:IM:ah

cc: Jennifer H. Sabine, Sweetwater Authority
Justin Brazil, Sweetwater Authority
Mark Hatcher, Sweetwater Authority
Israel Marquez, Sweetwater Authority
Erick Del Bosque, Sweetwater Authority
Heather Steven, County of San Diego (via email)



SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

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Ms. Bronwyn Brown
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA, 92123

December 13, 2018

Subject: Initial Comments related to the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project
PDS2018-MPA-18-004
SWA File: (Dev) Cottonwood Sand Mining

Dear Ms. Brown:

Thank you for providing a copy of the letter sent to New West Investment, Inc., the proponent of the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project (Project). The letter provides a summary of the major issues discussed at a pre-application meeting between County of San Diego (County) staff and the Project Proponent. In addition to the letter you provided, EnviroMINE Inc. provided Sweetwater Authority (Authority) staff with a copy of the Project Description, dated November 2018, and also presented the Project to Sweetwater Authority's Operation Committee on December 5, 2018.

The Authority is a public water agency serving approximately 200,000 people residing in National City, the western and central portions of Chula Vista, and the unincorporated communities of Bonita and Lincoln Acres. The Authority's mission is "*to provide its current and future customers with a safe and reliable water supply through the use of the best available technology, sound management practices, public participation and a balanced approach to human and environmental needs.*" With the Authority's mission statement in mind, Authority staff has conducted an initial review of materials provided and offers these initial comments and information. Please note that none of the comments provided in this letter should be construed as support of the Authority for the Project.

BACKGROUND

The Authority owns and manages Sweetwater Reservoir and Loveland Reservoir. Sweetwater Reservoir is a 28,079 acre foot reservoir with a surface area of approximately 978 acres when filled to capacity. Sweetwater Reservoir is a terminal reservoir located less than three miles downstream of the Project location. Major facilities located at or adjacent to Sweetwater Reservoir include the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant (Perdue WTP), Sweetwater Dam, the Sweetwater Reservoir Urban Runoff Diversion System (URDS), and aqueducts owned and operated by the San Diego County Water Authority.

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Loveland Reservoir is located near Alpine and upstream of the Project. Runoff from the upper Sweetwater River watershed is captured at Loveland Reservoir, primarily during winter and spring months. Runoff stored at Loveland Reservoir can be stored or transferred to Sweetwater Reservoir via the Sweetwater River channel to augment water production for the Authority's service area. Both Loveland Reservoir and Sweetwater Reservoir are a vital part of the San Diego region's drinking water supply.

The Authority has demonstrated its commitment to protecting the Sweetwater River watershed through a series of resolutions and actions. On May 23, 1984, the Authority's Governing Board adopted *Resolution 84-8*, which was later amended on April 27, 1988. In summary, *Resolution 84-8 As Amended* explains how development in the middle Sweetwater River watershed was becoming a threat to water quality in Sweetwater Reservoir and requires that developers and landowners developing lands within a portion of the middle Sweetwater River watershed pay a fee to reimburse a percentage of the cost associated with the construction of the URDS facilities (*the URDS facilities allow for the capture of polluted urban runoff, physical and biological pollutant removal from captured runoff in detention ponds, and full diversion of urban runoff, as needed*). On July 14, 1993, the Authority's Governing Board adopted a second resolution (*Resolution 93-8*) directing Authority staff to pursue means to protect the middle and upper portions of the Sweetwater River watershed since these watershed lands provide the runoff that is ultimately treated at the Perdue WTP and delivered to thousands of people in the Authority's service area. As result of these resolutions, the Authority implements a multi-barrier approach to protect water quality in the Sweetwater River watershed and its water sources, which includes monitoring of development, land use changes, and other possible contaminant activities occurring upstream of the Authority's surface water reservoirs.

INITIAL CONCERNS

The Authority is concerned about this Project and potential impacts to Sweetwater Reservoir as this Project proposes a variety of activities that could significantly increase pollution of the Sweetwater Reservoir. The Authority's concerns include:

A. Water Transfers

1. The Authority has senior water rights along the Sweetwater River. These water rights were acquired by the Authority through its predecessors. Among other things, these water rights allow the Authority to transfer water from Loveland Reservoir to Sweetwater Reservoir along the Sweetwater River channel. The Project might impact the Authority's ability to transfer water from Loveland Reservoir to Sweetwater Reservoir and the ability for any runoff to travel

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downstream along the river to Sweetwater Reservoir. The Project Description does not acknowledge the water transfers anywhere. Similarly, it does not propose any type of coordination or agreement with the Authority. The Authority would like to know, in writing, what the intentions of the Project Proponent are in regards to the currently periodic water transfers.

2. The Project proposes to widen the riverbed to a width of approximately 250 – 300 feet while maintaining the existing channel elevations. A wider riverbed would likely slow down the flow of water being transferred from Loveland Reservoir to Sweetwater Reservoir, and the increased surface area in the riverbed would likely allow for more water losses, adversely affecting the Authority and its customers. The Authority would like to request different alternatives to the final design of the Sweetwater River channel at the Project location.
3. Restoring streambeds and riverbeds is an expensive and challenging task. Before Project approval, the Authority requests that a restoration plan is developed and financial securities are in place to ensure that full restoration of the site occurs. Any on-site revegetation should not be dependent on runoff stored at Loveland Reservoir or water being transferred.
4. The Project proposes a conveyor belt to transport excavated soils to a processing plant on site. Sections of the conveyor belt are proposed to be within the Sweetwater River. It is not explained if sections of the conveyor belt will be moved temporarily when the river is flowing or when the Authority transfers water.
5. The Project proposes to use water from existing on-site groundwater wells and then abandon those wells after Project completion. The Authority currently uses one of those wells for monitoring groundwater levels and it is in the Authority's interest to keep that monitoring well operational.
6. Water transfers should be considered a factor in any Drainage Analysis or other hydrology studies.

B. Potential for Pollution at Sweetwater Reservoir

1. The California Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection (DWSAP) Program classifies mining operations as a very high risk possible contaminating activity (PCA). Very high PCAs have the highest potential for contaminating drinking water sources, such as Sweetwater Reservoir. In order to complete a vulnerability analysis, the Authority requests the following information:

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- A list of substances and materials (“pollutants of concerns”) that are proposed to be used as part of the Project that have the potential to pollute soils, waterways, groundwater, and the Sweetwater Reservoir. Impacts from pollutants of concern should also be analyzed as part of the Project’s environmental review. Furthermore, the Authority requests that a pollutant load analysis be conducted as part of the environmental review process to better understand the potential impacts to water quality.
 - A PDF copy of the Plot Plan; Conceptual Landscape Plan; Resource Protection Study; Reclamation Plan; Full Biological Resources Report/Study; Conceptual Resource Management Plan; Additional Hazards Information; Drainage/Flooding Analysis; Additional Detailed Water Demand; Geologic/Geotechnical Report; and Stormwater Management Plan.
2. The Authority understands that compliance with existing water pollution control regulations will be required for the Project in the form of implementation of a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) or similar compliance documentation. Reviewers of the draft SWMP should consider the following information:
- A terminal drinking water reservoir that serves a population of approximately 200,000 people is located less than three miles downstream of the Project.
 - While implementation of erosion and sediment control measures may help mitigate, to an extent, impacts to the Sweetwater River and the downstream reservoir, mismanagement of the mine, lack of BMP maintenance, or “an act of God” could result in significant pollution and siltation of Sweetwater Reservoir.
 - Water transfers from Loveland Reservoir to Sweetwater Reservoir may be an event that can be coordinated between the Authority and the Project Proponent. Other events, such as atmospheric rivers or Loveland Reservoir “spills,” cannot be controlled and may result in significant river flows that could flood the proposed mining site and result in pollution and siltation of Sweetwater Reservoir.
 - The Project includes habitat restoration in mined sites within the floodplain. Major erosion of recently restored sites located within the floodplain may occur during water transfers or significant storm events. It

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would be appropriate to know what solution the Project Proponent is suggesting to prevent this from happening, and if the suggested solution is feasible.

- The Project Description mentions that areas disturbed by the mining operations will be progressively reclaimed two years after the start of mining. Reclamation will consist of grading and revegetation. The Project Description, however, does not describe what type of erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented in disturbed areas during the two-year gap before reclamation begins.
 - The Project proposes import of inert fill and wash fines (“fill”) to be used as backfill in areas parallel to the river channel. Fill could be washed away by river flows and result in siltation of Sweetwater Reservoir and impacts to water quality. Contaminated wash fines should not be reused or disposed of on site.
 - The Project includes many features with potential for contaminating the river and the Sweetwater Reservoir. These features include muck ponds, the conveyor belt, and settling ponds. BMPs that prevent contamination of both groundwater and surface waters should be implemented at all times.
3. Spillage from the conveyor belt could result in impacts to water quality and become a safety hazard as the conveyor belt shares the area under the Steele Canyon Rd. Bridge with the main river channel. A safer, better alternative should be analyzed; full avoidance of the area under the bridge is preferred.
 4. Any negative impacts to water quality resulting from this Project can result in the need for additional water treatment. Additional treatment could result in additional cost to the Authority and its customers.

C. Fee Collection

1. If this Project moves forward, the Authority requires that a condition be placed on the Project to require the owner to submit satisfactory evidence to the County stating that the owner has complied with *Resolution 84-8 As Amended*. The timing for condition compliance is prior to issuance of any building permit or other permit pursuant to a Major Use Permit. On May 8, 1985, the County Board of Supervisors took action to require the County to place conditions on development proposals within a designated area of the Sweetwater River Watershed to the satisfaction of the Authority, as provided in *Resolution 84-8*. Since the Board of

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Supervisors action, discretionary Project approvals within the designated watershed area have complied with this condition. The resolution provides for the collection of urban runoff protection fees from all developments within the lower Sweetwater Reservoir drainage basin to pay for a portion of the URDS.

D. Future Site Development

1. After sand mining operations are concluded, the Project proposes to establish pads for future residential development. It is recommended that alternative land uses for the site be considered, as housing in the river's vicinity may be hazardous and subject to flooding.

E. Distribution List

1. The Authority recommends the following public agencies be included in the distribution list as these other agencies may have concerns with this Project as well.
 - California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
 - California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
 - California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, Water Quality Programs
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area Office
 - San Diego County Water Authority, Water Resources Department

Please continue to include the Authority on the County's distribution list for the subject Project as this letter only outlines initial concerns and it is by no means comprehensive. Additional correspondence will be provided as the Project progresses through the environmental and development review processes. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Israel Marquez at 619-409-6759 or imarquez@sweetater.org. The Authority values its relationship with the County and the high level of coordination that exists between County staff and Authority staff.

Sincerely,
SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

Jennifer H. Sabine

Jennifer H. Sabine
Assistant General Manager

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RM:IM:vn

cc: Ron R. Mosher, Sweetwater Authority
Israel Marquez, Sweetwater Authority
Cindy Pino, Sweetwater Authority



Sycuan Cultural Resource Committee

November 20, 2019

Ms. Heather Steven, Project Manager
And or Mr. Robert Hingtgen
County of San Diego, Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; PDS2018-RP-18-001, LOG NO. PDS2018-ER-18-19-007;
Cottonwood Sand Mine Project.

Dear Ms. Steven:

The Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation (Sycuan) is responding to the above referenced project, as Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), was received. Sycuan requests continued Tribal Consultation as the permitting process proceeds, to include all subjects that impact the Sycuan Nation. It is noted the Notice does not include a fiscal impact report to be prepared. Previous projects prove mining can negatively impact traffic and commerce in areas of operation. Sycuan operates multiple economic development projects in the immediate area. Sycuan requests further clarification as to why fiscal impacts to locals and local business are not being studied or mitigated for in the EIR.

We hope with proactive involvement the proposed project can avoid impacts to Cultural Resources and Natural Resources. Sycuan wishes to continue consultation with Lead Agency representatives, therefore if permitted, will include meaningful mitigation measures.

The Sycuan Band requests continued involvement in the consultation process and we anticipate review the of the Environmental Impact Report as it is made available.

Should you need any additional information, contact Alexis Vargas at avargas@sycuan-nsn.gov, or Cultural Resources, Kristie Orosco, korosco@sycuan-nsn.gov.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jamie LaBrake, Chairman of Sycuan Cultural Committee

From: Dan Silver
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood San Mining
Date: Monday, November 11, 2019 10:07:19 AM

Dear Mr Hingtgen:

Please retain EHL on all mailing, notification, and distribution lists for this project. The DEIR should clarify the proposed long-term use and zoning post reclamation, which is not clear in the NOP.

Sincerely,
Dan

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592
Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

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dsilverla@me.com
<https://ehleague.org>



San Diego County Archaeological Society, Inc.

Environmental Review Committee

6 November 2019

To: Mr. Robert Hingtgen
Department of Planning and Development Services
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, California 92123

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
Cottonwood Sand Mining
PDS2018-MUP-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

Thank you for the Notice of Preparation for the subject project, received by this Society last month.

We are pleased to note the inclusion of cultural resources in the list of subject areas to be addressed in the DEIR, and look forward to reviewing it during the upcoming public comment period. To that end, please include us in the distribution of the DEIR, and also provide us with a copy of the cultural resources technical report(s).

We note that this implementation will extend over more than ten years, and the excavation work will take place in three phases. The environmental document for the project will need to address how archaeological and Native American monitoring will be managed over that time period.

SDCAS appreciates being included in the County's environmental review process for this project.

Sincerely,


James W. Royle, Jr., Chairperson
Environmental Review Committee

cc: SDCAS President



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November 14, 2019

Robert Hingtgen
Planner 3
County of San Diego

Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

Subject: Proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine OPPOSITION

Dear Mr. Hingtgen

This letter is to provide commentary for the notice of preparation and to express our opposition to the proposed sand and gravel mine on the former Cottonwood Golf Course.

The location of the proposed sand mine is entirely inappropriate.

- First, it is located in the heart of the suburban Rancho San Diego community. This residential community has no industrial projects and is a quiet residential community. It already has high levels of traffic that would only be exacerbated by additional traffic, particularly heavy-duty diesel sand hauling dump trucks. It will be impacted by substantial noise and air pollution from the project. It is also in close proximity to two high schools, two elementary schools and a middle school that would be negatively impacted by the project's diesel exhaust. The four main pollutant emissions from diesel engines (carbon monoxide- CO, hydrocarbons-HC, particulate matter-PM and nitrogen oxides-NO_x) all have serious and lasting health effects, especially damaging to children.
- Second, the project will have major impacts on the quiet environment of the adjacent Steel Canyon Golf and Singing Hill Golf courses. Immediately to the South and East of the proposed Sand Mine lies the Steel Canyon golf course and country club as well as numerous homes along this golf course. Similarly, the Singing Hills Golf Course is adjacent to the proposed mine immediately to east.

- Third, the streets around the proposed Sand Mine are already at or beyond capacity. This included Steel Canyon Road, Willow Glen, and highway 54, and highway 94. Many of these intersections are rated F and cannot tolerate the addition of hundreds of sand and gravel trucks that have to use the same road.
- Fourth, the close proximity of the project to several public schools makes this an inappropriate location for a sand and gravel mine. Fugitive dust, traffic, and noise pollution will negatively impact the learning experience and health of the student in these proximate campuses.
- Fifth, it is located next to the McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve. The McGinty Mountain reserve was purchased to maintain and protect rare plant and animal populations and the unique form of coastal sage scrub and chaparral vegetation present, and was designated as an ecological reserve by the Fish and Game Commission in 1993. It contains substantial wildlife and numerous threatened or endangered plants. The reserve is jointly managed by the Nature Conservancy, San Diego County Parks, and the Environmental Trust. Additionally, wildlife corridors would be cut by the project connecting McGinty Mountain to other Multiple Species Conservation Project lands.
- Sixth, the project is located in the actual riverbed of the Sweetwater River. This 55- mile long river starts high in the Cuyamaca Mountains and flows to San Diego Bay crossing many sensitive ecosystems and preserves.

There are a number of major environmental concerns that would threaten both the Rancho San Diego community, the nearby Ecological Reserve, and the entire Sweetwater Watershed.

- 1) Noise Pollution. The project description indicates that for more than a decade the project will conduct mining of over half a million tons of aggregate, grading with diesel equipment, loading trucks, operation of front loaders, use of a long conveyer belt to haul aggregate, the separation of sand from aggregate, and an operational aggregate crushing, and processing facility. All of these activities would produce substantial noise that would impact and diminish the environment of both the local residential community and the adjacent ecological reserve. Noise pollution from digging, grading, loading, screening, and rock crushing from the conveyer line would all add to the disruption of the quality of life of this suburban family neighborhood.
- 2) Traffic. Traffic is already heavy on all the roads along the project including, Willow Glen, Steel Canyon and Jamacha Road. Truck trips would exacerbate these already heavy traffic loads and create traffic jams along these streets.
- 3) Air pollution and fugitive dust. Despite the best practices, fugitive dust from mining, hauling, conveying, and loading will occur. Fugitive dust is carcinogenic and is implicated in many respiratory problems including COPD, asthma, emphysema, and premature death. Moreover, dust pollution would blow westward with the prevailing winds and cover endangered plants in the McGinty Mountain Preserve. Finally, canyons in East County like the Sweetwater River Valley are prone to fierce Santa Ana winds that would

reduce the number of mining days, while blowing fugitive dust into the Rancho San Diego Community and beyond into Spring Valley, Lemon Grove, Chula Vista, and San Diego.

- 4) Chemical Weed Control. Surprisingly, chemical weed control is proposed for the project at a time when Bayer's "Roundup" and other herbicides have been implicated in a massive bee die off and increased rates of human cancers, particularly lymphoma. Glyphosates being applied in the vicinity of drinking water sources would result in contamination and violations of the federal Clean Water Act.
- 5) Water Pollution. The Cottonwood Sand Mine is proposed for the actual river bed of the Sweetwater River! This is an important river that carries considerable water and consistent flows during the rainy season. South of the proposed sand mine the river winds through the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and the Sweetwater River Trail. Silt, sand, and toxic heavy metals will be carried downstream into environmentally sensitive areas into the Sweetwater Reservoir. During much of winter and other major rain events, runoff would carry pollution including sand, soil and heavy metals down the Sweetwater River and into the Sweetwater Reservoir, a major source of drinking water for San Diego County. Downstream from the Reservoir the river passes through the Sweetwater Regional Park, parkland in the City of Bonita, and the environmentally sensitive Sweetwater Marsh, a part of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. It empties into San Diego Bay near the Living Coast, an ecological reserve and nature center. Metals, sand, and silt from the proposed mine would constitute a threat to this entire ecosystem. Attempts at previous restorations for mining sites that incorporate mining waste into the restoration substrate have been shown to fail in the post 5-year monitoring period in several studies. In short, the Sweetwater Watershed will be negatively impacted beyond the abilities of any known or feasible mitigation.
- 6) Community Character. A sand and gravel mine is stunningly incompatible with community character of the surrounding suburban community. Dust and traffic will impact two high schools, a junior high school, and two elementary schools. One elementary school is located just $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the proposed mine. Quiet residential areas surround the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine is zoned as recreational, not industrial. Adding this property to the National Wildlife Refuge or converting it to County Parkland would be compatible, but a sand and gravel mine is strikingly incompatible with the community character.
- 7) There is no need for additional aggregate in San Diego County. Indeed, every area of San Diego County has PCC – grade sand/aggregate that could be mined. The result is that more than 57,000 acres of industry quality sand and aggregate are readily available. Based on these detailed published findings by the County of San Diego, there is no present or near future foreseeable shortages of PCC- grade sand and aggregate.
- 8) Cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts must be addressed. Traffic Impacts including Sycuan Casino traffic and increased traffic on Steel Canyon and Willow Glen due to the Jamul Casino, must be considered.

- 9) Greenhouse Gas Impacts. The use of heavy-duty mining equipment including bulldozers, front Loaders, conveyer belts, and trucks is incompatible with county greenhouse gas goals. Moreover, the removal of hundreds of trees along the existing golf course, would have negative effects on carbon storage and would contribute climate change and heating. This existing land and vegetation stores considerable carbon that would be released if trees and other green plants are removed from the existing golf course. The idea that his project will reduce greenhouse gas is flawed and self-serving. The notion of a special proximity to sand consuming developers is flawed. This “logically closer” argument would be true of any polluting resource extraction operation. One million tons per year of sand and aggregate per year will influence markets and create new distribution networks. Depending on market conditions, it may lead to export of PCC-grade material from San Diego to other areas, such as Los Angeles or Arizona resulting in longer hauls, not shorter ones. In fact recycling building materials as was done with the Conrad Prybus Student Union at San Diego State rather than mining new materials is the best method to prevent greenhouse gas emission.
- 10) No Proposed Mitigation. Both the production of additional greenhouse gas and the loss of green open space will need to be mitigated. No mention of mitigation is made in the proposal. This is in violation of the county’s Climate Action Plan as well as a violation of California State Law.
- 11) The products and processes of sand mining and aggregate crushing operations place significant amounts of pollutants into the air, including sub-micron and respirable particles of silica. Small silica dust is recognized as carcinogenic, and exposure to silica has been determined as an occupational health hazard since the early 1930’s. Silica dust plumes are invisible, lighter than air, readily respirable and extraordinarily dangerous to lung tissues. A complete and total process evaluation of silica dust generated by the sand mining operation must be included in any environmental review undertaken by the County of San Diego.
- 12) Valley Fever is a serious and sometime fatal lung infection of the coccidioides fungi, which is many times associated with mining and earthmoving. While some people experience a continued cough, others can be stricken for years into such a limited capacity as to be bedridden by the infection. Deaths from coccidioidomycosis are not uncommon in high occurrence areas. There are three distinct stages of Valley Fever that manifest in patients; acute, chronic and disseminated coccidioidomycosis, with those suffering from compromised immune at serious risk. The opening of a sand mine operation in close proximity to residents in areas where Valley Fever occurs increases the rate of exposure and threatens those frequently outdoors, including seniors and children.

Thanks for your attention to our opposition to this damaging project. Please keep Sierra Club San Diego informed of all proposed actions regarding this sand mining attempt.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Andersen, Chapter Chair
Sierra Club San Diego
Westone47@gmail.com

George Courser, Conservation Chair
Sierra Club San Diego
gcourser@hotmail.com



Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org.
Save Our Community

Date: November 20, 2019

From: Elizabeth Urquhart, Chairperson
Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org. (info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.org)

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

On behalf of the Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org. Board of Directors, I submit the following points that should be considered regarding the Environmental Impact Report content for the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project proposed in Rancho San Diego.

A Sand Mine located in the center of a developed residential community will degrade the quality of the environment by creating traffic safety hazards, harming air quality, adding significant greenhouse gas emissions, eliminating plants & wildlife, destroying cultural resources, and changing the beautiful, peaceful environment we now live in to one that is noisy and dangerous. SANDAG's 2011 San Diego Region Aggregate Supply Study (https://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1558_12638.pdf), of which the Sand Mine developer (EnviroMINE, Inc.) was part of the expert review panel, indicates that sand mines should be located in areas not developed and that have not been conserved for environmental reasons. In addition, the study also states that a 1,300-foot setback from residential areas has been determined necessary to mitigate immediate impacts. Although sand is a needed commodity, this sand mine project's proposed location does not meet County standards. It needs to be located in an appropriate environment with minimal negative impact to people, wildlife, water, air, and roads.

1. **Project must be consistent with San Diego County General Plan, Valle De Oro Community Plan, and Rancho San Diego Specific Plan** – the proposed Sand Mine project is not consistent with all plan policies.
2. **Traffic Safety Hazard** – cumulative impact to traffic, safety and emergency evacuation routes must be considered; in addition to proposed Sand Mine, the Enclave at Ivanhoe

Ranch is planning 119 residences adjacent to the site. Already congested use of Jamul Drive, Steele Canyon Road, and Willow Glen Road cannot handle additional heavy use. Additional projects that should be considered in a cumulative study include Otay Village in Jamul (1300 residences between Jamul and Chula Vista) and Skyline Church Retirement Housing on Jamacha Road. Both projects will add significant traffic on Campo Road/Highway 94 and Jamacha Road/Highway 94.

3. **Land Use & Community Character** – the character of the area is developed and consists of residential, recreational, civic and open space uses. The RSD Specific Plan identifies the Cottonwood Golf Course serving as a buffer area and providing a larger setback to sensitive habitat areas. A Sand Mine will destroy sensitive habitat areas.
4. **Major Use Permit Findings** – proposed use requires that location, size, design and operating characteristics be compatible with adjacent uses – residences and nearby buildings. The proposed Sand Mine will have a harmful effect upon RSD's desirable neighborhood character; the generation of traffic; the capacity and physical character of surrounding streets; and, the suitability of the site for the type and intensity of use or development which is proposed.
5. **Biological Resources** – the area contains jurisdictional waters of the State of California and the United States, including protected wetlands, requiring approval from State and Federal resource agencies. Several federally endangered and threatened species have been identified on or in the vicinity of the proposed project site (site is adjacent to the National Wildlife Refuge). The site is also within the South County and Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segments of the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) designated preserve areas.
6. **Visual Resources** – Willow Glen Drive is designated as a County Scenic Road. Impacts to travelers using this road, persons walking and bicycling the road, and residences along the ridges that view this road must be considered.
7. **Air/Noise/Altered Hydrogeologic Conditions** – proposed Sand Mine would significantly impact the environment potentially harming residents, plant and animal species, water and the land. Such harm to human beings, animals and our environment must take priority over temporary private financial gain. We urge comprehensive study of these impacts.
8. **Sweetwater River** – the Sweetwater Authority documented that the Sand Mine proposes a variety of activities that could significantly increase pollution of the Sweetwater Reservoir. This source of drinking water must be protected.
9. **Cultural Resources** – numerous archaeological resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the proposed Sand Mine site. Significant impact to tribal cultural resources is likely.

- 10. Sensitive Populations At-Risk** – sensitive populations including schools, residential care facilities, and facilities and residences that house individuals with health conditions (children & elderly) would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. Proposed Sand Mine identified that residences and nearby Jamacha Elementary school would be at-risk, however they must also study impact to Adeona Healthcare, an 80-bed residential treatment facility for adolescents which is adjacent to the Sand Mine site on Steele Canyon Road, the YMCA within a quarter mile of the property site, and La Vida Real, a senior living residence, which is about a half mile from the site.
- 11. Required Local, State, National Agencies** – it is essential that the agencies identified in the County's Scoping Letter of May 31, 2019, as well as any other affected agencies, be included in the EIR notification process as well as the required approvals for the project. This should be regardless of any planned reduction in project scope by the applicant since the Scoping Letter was issued. At minimum, those agencies include: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Transportation, California State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water, California Department of Water Resources – Division of Safety of Dams, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Southern California Area Office, San Diego County Water Authority – Water Resources Department, Sweetwater Authority, Otay Water District, San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, Grossmont Union High School District, Cajon Valley Union School District, Jamul-Dulzura Union School District, and Local Native American Tribes.
- 12. Community Planning Group Participation** – we request that the Community Planning Groups representing the regions most impacted by this project, Valle de Oro Community Planning Group and Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group, participate in the formal review and approval process related to the Cottonwood Sand Mine.

Thank you for requesting community input regarding this proposed project. Hundreds of community members have communicated with our organization expressing significant concerns – we appreciate the County considering carefully the detrimental impact a Sand Mine would bring at this location and how these many issues must be studied as part of the Environmental Impact Review process.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Urquhart, M.Ed.
Chairperson
Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org.
Website: www.stopcottonwoodsandmine.com
Email: info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.com

VDOCPG Adhoc-subcommittee Comments
for PDS2018-MUP-18-023
Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

The Valle De Oro Planning Group created an adhoc-subcommittee to focus on the processing of the Major Use Permit for the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project. The initial task of this subcommittee is to participate in the County's Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The information provided below completes this initial task.

The subcommittee has reviewed the County's CEQA Initial Study document dated October 24, 2019 and we referenced County materials found on the PDS website, specifically, "CEQA Process". We reviewed the materials with the perspective of how this project will impact the community, it's residents and the environment along each stage of development, during sand mining operations, during reclamation, and after the property has been declared 'reclaimed.'

We believe there are 4 environmental factors the County did not identify as "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" that warrant being addressed in the EIR. These factors are as follows:

- 1) Groundwater :** The proposed project will result in the removal of 3.8M CY of sand and aggregate, key elements of this aquifer, forever transforming the geological profile of this sand aquifer. What will the impact be to water purity, quality, and the recharge rate of the surrounding residential wells, during sand mining operations, during the reclamation process, and at project completion? How will the negative impacts be mitigated?
- 2) Hazards & Haz Materials :** There is significant potential the proposed sand mine operations will result in airborne silica dust, a known carcinogen. Additionally, the concerns of Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) in the air and topsoil have been broadcasted by members of the public. Immediately adjacent to the project site exists the Adeona Healthcare Facility and approximately 0.25 miles away from the project site is the Jamacha Elementary school and the Steele Canyon County Park.

We noticed there was no mention of the California Education Code(CEC) in the CEQA Initial Study document. This seemed odd to us since Jamacha Elementary is a quarter-mile away from the project site and for a minimum of 10 years, the project would effectively change the land use from Open Space to a Heavy-Industrial site with a known carcinogen (silica dust).

If this was just an oversight, would you please explain how the County will address the elements of the California Education Code¹ with respect to ensuring child safety at an existing school and the potential land use change of a nearby property to a hazardous land use?

If this was not an oversight, please explain why it is not pertinent?

What on-site tests will be performed regarding airborne silica dust? How will it be monitored during sand mining operations?

Will the site be tested for ADL? If present, what monitoring and additional testing will be performed throughout the project?

These concerns need to be addressed in the EIR.

¹ County of San Diego's "Guidelines for Determining Significance, Hazardous Materials and Existing Contamination", dated June 30, 2007

3) Recreation : The long standing outdoor activities (bicycling, hiking, running, equestrian and other sports) on the perimeter of the project site will be directly impacted. This proposed project will negatively impact and may preclude the long-established recreational activities on the local trails, at the public park with its tennis court and sports field and along the neighboring roads.

Approval of this MUP will result in the loss of public recreational opportunities from the surrounding community and region for over a decade. This is a significant impact.

4) Water Quality : The proposed project removes 3.8M CY of sand and aggregate and replaces it with 1M CY of top soil ,which may contain ADL and project ‘fines’ (silt & clay). The site’s hydrological profile is massively altered, potentially impacting the rate of water absorption vs water flow. The public and subcommittee have concerns about how this will impact surface water, on-site and downstream, as well as their wells (groundwater). These concerns extend well beyond the duration of just the sand mining operations.

This did not appear to be addressed in the CEQA Initial Study. Is it addressed in a supplementary document, perhaps a geotechnical report?

For each factor we’ve noted above, we expect that you’ll be providing us with the County’s determination of inclusion in the EIR. We especially look forward to learning as to why the County has determined a factor should not be included.

From: alexis abbo
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 4:57:34 PM

Date: November 22, 2019
From: Alexis Abbo, alexiseveabbo@gmail.com
10591 Noakes Road La Mesa, CA 91941
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,
Alexis Abbo

From: Michelle Adcock
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Opposition to Cottonwood Sand Mining
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 1:53:04 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

As a resident of Rancho San Diego for 15 years, please accept this letter as a heartfelt plea not to approve the project. My utmost concern is for my health, the health of my neighbors and especially the children who attend the local schools. My Mom, is a lung cancer survivor, who has limited lung capacity from removal of more than half of a lung. It would be unthinkable for her to overcome chemo, radiation, surgery, and, if the sand mine is approved, start a new battle to stay alive due to breathing in the toxic dust that will surely cover our community.

Financially, as homeowners, our property value will plummet. What recourse will we have?

In the event of a fire or other emergency, how will we have access to emergency service trucks if the streets in and out are dominated by trucks? Without the sand mine, our community already has limited evacuation routes and heavy traffic.

On behalf of myself and my family, we respectfully request that the project is stopped. Please, please- what if this was your home, your community, your health?

Michelle Adcock
3078 Golf Crest Ridge Rd
El Cajon CA 92019

This message may contain confidential or proprietary information intended only for the use of the addressee(s) named above or may contain information that is legally privileged. If you are not the intended addressee, or the person responsible for delivering it to the intended addressee, you are hereby notified that reading, disseminating, distributing or copying this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message by mistake, please immediately notify us by replying to the message and delete the original message and any copies immediately thereafter.

If you received this email as a commercial message and would like to opt out of future commercial messages, please let us know and we will remove you from our distribution list.

Thank you.~

FAFLD

From: Ross Adcock
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 3:18:22 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I'm a native San Diegan and my family & I have lived peacefully in the Rancho San Diego Community for the past 15 years & absolutely love it here. I drive by the dead Cottonwood Golf course daily and always wondered what was going to happen to it? I assumed with San Diego's housing shortage/Crisis that homes would be developed with a focus on affordable housing. As you could image, I was horrified when I discovered that a sand mining operation was being planned that would totally destroy our beautiful community and our quality of life altered in a dramatic fashion.

Who would truly benefit from this operation? The answer is simple, only one individual, the property owner, who has no vested interest in our community or San Diego as a whole. While the 21,000 plus members of this beautiful community would suffer in a multitude of ways. Our whole quality of life would be destroyed for the benefit of ONE INDIVIDUAL, who could care less about destroying our beautiful planned community.

A Sand Mining Operation located in the CENTER of a developed community will degrade & pollute the quality of the environment by creating traffic safety hazards, harming air quality, noise pollution, adding significant greenhouse gas emissions, destroying plants and sensitive habitats and endangered species, destroying cultural resources, lower the value of our homes, choke our evacuation routs in case of wild fires, Sweetwater Riverbed & Sweetwater Reservoir would seriously be compromised, the National Wildlife refuges surrounding the sand mine would be greatly affected. There is no end to the destruction that this operation would have on our neighborhood.

Surrounding the sand mine and in extremely close proximity is Jamacha Elementary school, there are also million dollar homes on the golf course and the sand mining operation would be smack tab in the middle of their back yards making it impossible for these people to sell their homes, how would they be compensated? Also in close proximity is Steele Canyon and Valhalla High Schools, Hillsdale middle school, Cuyamaca College, McGrath YMCA, National Wildlife refuges & 2 beautiful parks.

As residents of this Community we have a lot to lose and nothing to gain from a Sand Mining Operation in the middle of our Neighborhood. Only the property owner who has no vested interest in Rancho San Diego is to benefit at our expense! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert Adcock

From: Ross Adcock
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mining Operation
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:48:14 AM

Hello Mr. Hingtgen,

This type of operation would completely destroy our Community, quality of life, environment, property values, Sweetwater river and Sweetwater Reservoir, Nation wildlife refuge, traffic congestion, air quality, etc.

Thank you very much for your time,

Ross Adcock
Rancho San Diego Resident



From: Ziad Alsaigh
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood sand mine project
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 5:42:47 PM

Hello Robert,

We are standing here to stop the cottonwood sand mine project that will affect on all of us socially, emotionally and economically.

I'm living by the golf course (less than 50 feet)for about 7 years and I loved the area and if that happen and approve the project that will impacts me and all my family to moves away and that will reopen my memory when I enforced to leave my original country and I'm still suffering from PTSD and also my family to still suffering from old memories.

Please don't approve the project and keep us living safe in our area with the big family and neighbors.

Thank you,

Žiād Alšāīgh

@ 2019 !!

From: May Alsheikh
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: [may dawood](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 8:26:26 PM

Good evening Mr. Hingtgen,

This proposed sand mine project will cause irreparable and harmful impacts to the immediate and surrounding area. Traffic impact will be realized and can't be mitigated. While the developer will present a Traffic Impact Report (TIR), such report could be engineered in such a way as to reflect no traffic impact or minimal alleged impact. Additionally, trucking of sand from the mine operation could cause dropping of aggregate of various sizes that may cause damage or cracking of cars windshields and the developer would deny any responsibility for such damage not to mention impact to the surrounding area for erosion control and migration of sediment in an unlawful manner. Dust will be a common element in the area and any engineered steps to control dust will not be fully achieved to eliminate such harm from reaching our communities. Noise generated from this operation would be harmful to the elderly and our young children that will not be possibly mitigated and would cause long term health hazard to the citizens residing nearby. Additionally, this development will result in the residential market value to drop and will cause serious monitory damage to the home owners.

For the reasons above and more, I object to the proposed project and look forward for the County to take an active and serious role to fulfill any and all CEQA requirements which if analyzed properly will result in striking down this proposed development.

Sincerely,

Jason Alsheikh
(619) 942-1821

November 21, 2019

From: KEVIN ANDERSON
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood mining proposal
Date: Tuesday, November 05, 2019 7:24:12 PM

As an avid bicycle rider on Jamacha, Willow Glen and Dehesa, my group of riders are terrified on our safety to continue riding in one of the flattest and pure nature areas left in the County. We have lost four members from our group from traffic, two from trucks on Willow Glen and can only imagine what this sand mining operation will do to our hard-exercising air sucking lung quality and massively loaded and difficult-to-maneuver sand laden trucks. Please preserve the last flat ride! Please do not let this proceed as planned and consider an alternative use like residential.

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From: Hani A
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Re: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2019 6:51:03 PM

This project will have a major impact on our health and safety. Not to mentioned there will be a major impact on our quality of life.

Thanks

Hani Anthony

On Thursday, October 24, 2019, 10:29:48 AM PDT, Hingtgen, Robert J <robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov> wrote:

Good Morning,

Please see the attached Legal Advertisement/Public Review Notice (notice) for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mining project.

You are included in a blind carbon copy email group and are receiving this notice as your contact information was provided to the Department of Planning & Development Services.

A link to the Cottonwood NOP documentation is available at the following webpage:https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa_public_review.html. You may review this documentation and provide written comments during the NOP period from October 24, 2019 (today) through 4:00 P.M. on Friday November 22, 2019 (a 30-day period).

The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the project and its potential environmental effects to those who wish to comment regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis that will be included in the EIR.

As stated in the notice, County staff will conduct a public scoping meeting at the Hillsdale Middle School at 1301 Brabham Street in Rancho San Diego on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

You may contact Heather Steven at heather.steven@sdcounty.ca.gov or 858-694-5802 or Robert Hingtgen at robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov or (858) 694-3712 if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
MS O-650
(858) 694-3712
robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

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Date: 11-1-2019
From: Henry Anthony
1507 Woodpine Dr.
EL Cajon, CA 92019
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining

Project Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Date: 11/20/2019
From: Henry Anthony (Hanisandiego@yahoo.com)
1507 Woodpine Drive, El Cajon, CA 92019
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**
(PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to oppose the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. A major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow single lane of travel roadways will be detrimental to the community. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 10 years. During that time an estimated 4.8 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to the highest bidder. This operation will prove detrimental to human health with silica dust and similar contaminants traveling in the air to land on the nearby parks, such as Hilton Head Park, and homes that is detrimental to all life and may cause various forms of cancers such as tuberculosis and emphysema.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment to what is mostly a retirement-based community in addition to family dwellings with children, animals and even horses. The location is adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge which has the potential to disperse and displace wildlife, especially during seasonal migrations. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will suffer, especially animals nocturnal in nature when loud operations are set to begin at 7:00AM. Investigation into impacts on these species such as native owls, coyotes, birds, butterfly's, lizards, and honeybees at minimum should be thoroughly investigated. Additionally, some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community through travel in the air and coming down in terms of rain pollutants. Likewise, also running into the storm drains and out to the ocean where the pollutants will impact aquatic life.

There is also a major concern about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. In typical sand mining, leaching protection from heavy equipment and wastewater may be minimal and can overflow basins during heavy rains. Water that flows into this valley will no longer be potable. Additionally, many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. The negative impacts on the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities, should be thoroughly investigated. Additionally, the phycological wellbeing of nearby residents who have to deal with this daily should also be considered.

Although the property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine, many in the past have experienced detrimental breaches during stormy seasons. Much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner and should not be a positive considering factor in project support. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants, Wildlife and Humans, as well as the inevitable decrease to overall well-being as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,
Henry Anthony



Date: 11/21/2019
From: Joseph Anthony (jhanthony@outlook.com)
1507 Woodpine Drive, El Cajon, CA 92019
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**
(PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

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Sincerely,
Joseph Anthony

Date: 11/21/2019
From: Mary Anthony (maryanthony1507@yahoo.com)
1507 Woodpine Drive, El Cajon, CA 92019
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**
(PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to oppose the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. A major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow single lane of travel roadways will be detrimental to the community. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 10 years. During that time an estimated 4.8 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to the highest bidder. This operation will prove detrimental to human health with silica dust and similar contaminants traveling in the air to land on the nearby parks, such as Hilton Head Park, and homes that is detrimental to all life and may cause various forms of cancers such as tuberculosis and emphysema.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment to what is mostly a retirement-based community in addition to family dwellings with children, animals and even horses. The location is adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge which has the potential to disperse and displace wildlife, especially during seasonal migrations. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will suffer, especially animals nocturnal in nature when loud operations are set to begin at 7:00AM. Investigation into impacts on these species such as native owls, coyotes, birds, butterfly's, lizards, and honeybees at minimum should be thoroughly investigated. Additionally, some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community through travel in the air and coming down in terms of rain pollutants. Likewise, also running into the storm drains and out to the ocean where the pollutants will impact aquatic life.

There is also a major concern about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. In typical sand mining, leaching protection from heavy equipment and wastewater may be minimal and can overflow basins during heavy rains. Water that flows into this valley will no longer be potable. Additionally, many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. The negative impacts on the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities, should be thoroughly investigated. Additionally, the phycological wellbeing of nearby residents who have to deal with this daily should also be considered.

Although the property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine, many in the past have experienced detrimental breaches during stormy seasons. Much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner and should not be a positive considering factor in project support. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants, Wildlife and Humans, as well as the inevitable decrease to overall well-being as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Mary Anthony *Mary C Anthony*



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92128
(858) 694-2962 • Fax (858) 694-2555
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds

KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

Furthermore, this Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego will reduce the value of our property, not to mention that silica dust is a potentially dangerous substance when exposed to on a regular basis. One of the most serious dangers of silica dust is silicosis, a condition that can reduce a person's capacity to breathe. Exposure to the dust will also result in lung cancer, stomach cancer, and renal disease. It can also lead to other lung diseases, such as tuberculosis and emphysema.

I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Rita Anthony 11/5/2019
Commenter Signature, Date

RITA ANTHONY Print Name

1507 Woodpine Dr Address

El Cajon CA 92019 City, State, Zip Code

Date: 11/21/2019
From: Rita Anthony (Lookhani@yahoo.com)
1507 Woodpine Drive, El Cajon, CA 92019
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**
(PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to oppose the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. A major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow single lane of travel roadways will be detrimental to the community. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 10 years. During that time an estimated 4.8 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to the highest bidder. This operation will prove detrimental to human health with silica dust and similar contaminants traveling in the air to land on the nearby parks, such as Hilton Head Park, and homes that is detrimental to all life and may cause various forms of cancers such as tuberculosis and emphysema.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment to what is mostly a retirement-based community in addition to family dwellings with children, animals and even horses. The location is adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge which has the potential to disperse and displace wildlife, especially during seasonal migrations. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will suffer, especially animals nocturnal in nature when loud operations are set to begin at 7:00AM. Investigation into impacts on these species such as native owls, coyotes, birds, butterfly's, lizards, and honeybees at minimum should be thoroughly investigated. Additionally, some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community through travel in the air and coming down in terms of rain pollutants. Likewise, also running into the storm drains and out to the ocean where the pollutants will impact aquatic life.

There is also a major concern about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. In typical sand mining, leaching protection from heavy equipment and wastewater may be minimal and can overflow basins during heavy rains. Water that flows into this valley will no longer be potable. Additionally, many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. The negative impacts on the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities, should be thoroughly investigated. Additionally, the phycological wellbeing of nearby residents who have to deal with this daily should also be considered.

Although the property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine, many in the past have experienced detrimental breaches during stormy seasons. Much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner and should not be a positive considering factor in project support. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants, Wildlife and Humans, as well as the inevitable decrease to overall well-being as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Rita Anthony 

From: Aiden Anton
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine environmental impact.
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:28:30 PM

Date: **11/22/2019**

From: **Aiden Anton (ayad_edward@yahoo.com)**

2506 Sawgrass St. El Cajon, CA 92019

To: **Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)**

San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to show my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. The Cottonwood sand mine is an offensive project to the community of Rancho San Diego that should not have been proposed. The project is meant to turn what was the Cottonwood golf course, into sand mine, producing millions of tons of sand over 12 years and maybe more. This project comes with adverse health effects in the heart of the Rancho San Diego Community. This is a small community that has mainly families, kids, elderly living within it, with schools and grocery stores all surrounding the vicinity. The last thing this place needs is some mining project that will pollute the air, water, and the peacefulness within the community. Not to mention, there will be a significant increase in traffic as a result of heavily loaded trucks coming in and out of the mining site. We originally purchased our home due to the quietness and the peacefulness that it offered, which is something to look forward to after a long day from work. If this project takes place, everyone surrounding this project will surely have their peace taken away from them.

Sincerely,

Aiden Anton

2506 Sawgrass st.
El Cajon, CA 92019
619-808-7929



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

Opposed to the Cottonwood Sand Mine Development

Health will be greatly effected not only by the air quality, water and noise but access to medical care in an emergency. Poorly thought out project.

Traffic will be terrible and in a fire emergency it could cost lives. No benefit for the community only negative. Property values will drop drastically.

Health deterioration. Law suits will come and destroy any profit. The State will be sued for allowing such an unhealthy and destructive development to go forward.

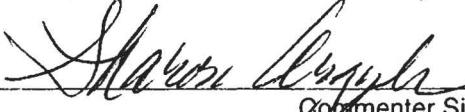
Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712



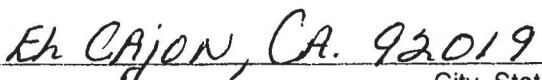
Commenter Signature, Date



Print Name



Address



City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

Opposed to the Cottonwood Sand Mine

This would be devastating to the community for Air Quality, Noise, Traffic and Safety.

Limited access in an emergency, fire escape, making life and death situations more eminent, bringing law suits from a poor thought out development.

Home values will plummet not just in the area effected but by word of mouth. Who wants to live or invest in such an unhealthy area. Quality of life will cease to exist.

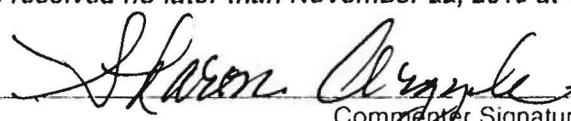
Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator

County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

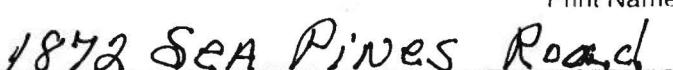
Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

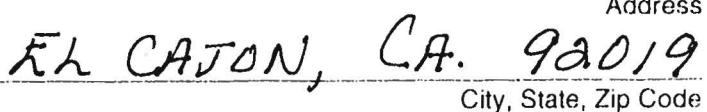
FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712


Computer Signature, Date


Print Name


Address


City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I AM employed by GUTSD at work
at VALHALLA HS. I AM AGAINST THIS
proposition AS IT MAY AFFECT THE QUALITY
to me STUDENTS THAT ATTEND ANY
OF THE ~~local~~ schools THAT ARE
LOCATED NEAR this work site. IT WILL
CREATE TRAFFIC ISSUES AND BE AN
OVERAL DISTURBANCE TO THE COMMUNITY
AND ITS RESIDENTS.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

B Ayon 11/20/2019

Commenter Signature, Date

B Ayon

3583 1/2 3rd Ave

Print Name

San Diego CA 92103

Address

City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
6510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92128
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www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds

KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

At what point do people's well being become more important than the all night dollar. Not only will the sand mine cause health issues, it will cause safety issues on the road. There is an elementary school only a mile up the road, the children will end up with respiratory problems and who knows maybe even cancer due to the toxins from all the semi-truck emission and breathing bacteria and mold spores into the air. The sand mine will only benefit the investors. Only when the last tree has been cut down, the last fish has been caught and the last stream poisoned, will we realize we cannot eat money. - Cree Indian proverb.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

11/20/19

Commenter Signature, Date

Audra Bailey
1209 Silverberry Ct
El Cajon, CA 92019
Print Name
Address
City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2862 • Fax (858) 694-2556
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

These proposed sand mines will turn away new young families, I myself have a young family and I will sell my house and more if these mines go in. I don't want my son or wife exposed to the potential of respiratory problems or even Valley fever. Money over people shouldn't even be a decision. Sand mines will be detrimental to Rancho. People don't pay top dollar to live next to a monstrosity like a sand mine. Money may make the world go round but shouldn't be the end all too.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

C. Bailey 11/20/19
Commenter Signature, Date

Corey Bailey
Print Name

1209 Silverberry Ct
Address

Chula Vista, CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE
(PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

PLEASE STOP THIS RIDICULOUS REQUEST TO OPEN A SAND MINE OPERATION

IN OUR COMMUNITY. WHY SHOULD ALL THE RESIDENTS OF RANCHO HAVE TO PUT

UP WITH ALL THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF THIS SAND MINE SO 1 PERSON CAN MAKE

\$40,000,000. YOU WILL HAVE CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY GETTING SICK FROM

THE SILICA IN THE AIR. WHO WILL REIMBURSE THEM FOR HEALTH ISSUES CREATED

BY THIS SAND MINE. THIS REQUEST NEEDS TO BE "REJECTED".

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator

County of San Diego

Planning and Development Services

5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

Print Name

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Address

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

EL CAJON, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

EL CAJON, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

THIS SAND MINE PROJECT NEEDS TO STOP. THIS IS NOT "GOOD" FOR OUR COMMUNITY
THE GENERAL PLAN FOR RANCHO SAN DIEGO NEVER INCLUDED A SAND MINE RIGHT
IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. CLOSE PROXIMITY TO SCHOOLS, SENIOR LIVING AND RESIDENCES
WHERE SMALL CHILDREN AND ELDERLY LIVE. THERE IS THE NOISE POLLUTION, INCREASED
TRAFFIC DANGER. THERE ARE ENDANGERED SPECIES ON THE GOLF COURSE AS WELL AS NEARBY.
WHO WILL COMPENSATE ALL THE RESIDENCES FOR THE "LOSS OF PROPERTY VALUE"

THIS PROPOSITION NEEDS TO "STOP"

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712


11-19-19
Commenter Signature, Date
Andrew Jeffery

Print Name
3450 Heatherwood Dr
El Cajon, CA 92019
Address
City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I have lived on Cottonwood Golf course for 33 years. I have raised 4 children here and now have 6 grandchildren. 2 of which live with me. This Sand Mine project is "ABSURD". The "Health Risk" alone outweighs anything else wrong with it. In '70 and my 3 & 7 year old grandchildren live with me. We are at high risk of Cancer, lung problems, asthma etc brought on by Silica. My yard is right on the golf course where they will begin digging. This is not right or acceptable. The noise & traffic 169 trucks a day going down Willow Glen - I won't even be able to set off my street. Please Deny this Project.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Renee Jackie Bailey 11-19-19
Commenter Signature, Date

Renee Jackie Bailey
Print Name
3452 Heatherwood DR

Address

EL CAJON, CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code

Date: 11/21/2019

Philip F. Bailey
3452 Heatherwood Dr.
El Cajon, Ca 92019

Bronwyn Brown, Project Planner (Bronwyn.Brown@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: Major Use Permit 18-023: The Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

Dear Ms. Brown,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. When I was 19 in 1962 this area was the Jamacha Sand Plant with no homes in this area. In 1987 we purchased a home on Heatherwood Dr. which included a use easement option to the Cottonwood Golf Course of approx. one half acre. For over 32 years I have watched the growth of this area as a desirable community for families to raise their children. This is a bedroom community for working class families who's health could be affected by this project. Look at all the schools within 1 or 2 miles and you can see the impact this will have on the children and yes the senior citizens of Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. The impact on everyone's life style will be impacted for one person's desire to make money at the expense of the community at large if approved. This mine will be operating for at least 10 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported. The impact on our roads and the added traffic noise from all the equipment and trucks is not in the best interest of this community.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more not to mention the final area will make the flood channels in Los Angeles look like creek beds as this is going to widen the river channel from Willow Glen to the current property lines on the south side of the golf course. This is something you can visualize from the Steel Canyon Bridge over the current golf course. If the owner gets his way this will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells as I do and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. Where in the Major Use Permit application are the plans to mitigate any of these significant impacts? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this quarter mile wide open-pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment. Not in the physical well-being and safety of the community who you are supposed to protect. Why do we need planning commissions and boards if owner's can just change any plans made in the best interest of the community? I urge you not recommend approval of this Major Use Permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip F. Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Philip" on the first line and "F. Bailey" on the second line.

Philip F. Bailey

From: JOANNE BAILIE
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: objection to rsd sand mine
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 9:53:19 AM

Date: 11-13-19

From: Joanne Bailie

11582 Avenida Marcella El Cajon CA 92019

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an **elementary schools** and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise

of “reclamation” would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner’s perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services’ perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project’s Environmental Impact Report.

To add to this form letter I would like to say that I am a ORIGINAL Rancho San Diego resident. Bought my house in May of 1986. My family moved away from the city because we all have Asthma. Your proposed sand mining project will worsen our breathing! We already have the annoying quarry which already causes air pollution and Noise pollution. This project will impact our traffic and overall lives. This is absurd that we have to fight for our family's health and well being! I would have loved to speak at the meetings but I am disabled and could not attend. However, I will assist in any future meetings or protests! PLEASE TAKE THIS AS A FIRM "NO SAND MINE."

Thank you

Sincerely,

Joanne Bailie 11582 Avenida Marcella El Cajon CA 92019

619-572-8090 please email me back that your received this email

From: Stacy Balfour
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Major Use Permit 18-023: The Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 11:07:07 AM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I wanted to add my voice to the opposition for the proposed Cottonwood sand mining project in Rancho San Diego. I know you are aware of all of the multitude of reasons for the opposition, so I won't repeat them all here, other than to say that the environmental impact and the adverse health and quality of living to those in the Rancho San Diego community are immense and unacceptable. My family and I enjoy hiking in the wild life refuge, and appreciate the relative quiet and fresh air. To have those compromised would be a huge loss.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,

Stacy Balfour

Date: 11/22/19

From: Stacy Balfour
stacybalfour@excite.com
10902 Avenida Benjamin, La Mesa 91941 (Rancho San Diego)

Subject: Major Use Permit 18-023: The Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

Dear Ms. Steven,

I'm writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of homes, a wild refuge that I very much enjoy hiking in, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. The impact to the community is immense.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM, with loading and truck transport to begin even earlier at 4:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. Where in the Major Use Permit application are the plans to mitigate any of these significant impacts? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open-pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you not recommend approval of this Major Use Permit.

Sincerely,

Stacy Balfour

From: Kathy Barta
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine Concern -- From a Retired Teacher in the Community
Date: Saturday, November 23, 2019 2:57:59 PM

Please consider my points in this email.

I am a retired teacher from Hillsdale Middle School, located in Rancho San Diego.

I live over the hill, in the Singing Hills area. This mine would not affect my home, but it would affect the homes of my past students and their families. It will affect the health of the current students and staff of the middle school. And, that is scary!!

Our campus is not enclosed. The hallways are all outdoors. Children and teachers and staff would be exposed the poor quality of the air, every hour. I am not an expert on the effects of the mine for air quality, but it makes sense that it will change.

PLEASE reconsider this. The only sand mine I can think of is in Lakeside, along the 67 freeway. Not many homes near this. Rancho SD is very different! Many homes, many schools from Cajon Valley School District. Many children.

Help our community to stop this please.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Barta

From: Connie Beck
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: proposed Cottonwood sand mine
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019 9:10:06 PM

I live in Singing Hills in El Cajon. My quality of life will be affected if this inappropriate land use is approved because of the overall economic effects that will occur in Rancho San Diego. Those tons and tons of sand that would be transported would negatively affect our air quality. The value of homes anywhere near the sand mines and/or Willow Glen Road would fall. These are the economic dangers of such an ill-conceived plan. Far worse would be the long lasting environmental damage to a natural watercourse and the natural terrain and native plants. These plants alone provide mitigation for climate change which is mandated by San Diego's general plan. On this basis alone this proposed devastation of the area should be denied.

Please consider my comments even though I was out of the country and unable to attend the public meeting on November 4.

Connie Beck and Lewis Crusha
1077 Vista Madera Lane
El Cajon, CA 92019

--
Connie Beck

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Marcus Tullius Cicero

From: Dina Beerle
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Rancho San Diego sand mine
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019 1:53:45 PM

I've been brought up with the understanding that my civil rights cease once they interfere with my neighbor's civil rights.

The possibility of an active sand mine in the midst of our neighborhood is a true example of how the sand mine owner's right to increase **his** financial gain colludes with **our** rights to:

- * maintain the family oriented atmosphere that lead us to purchase our homes in this
 - planned community
 - * maintain our clean air
 - * maintain our clean water
 - * prevent noise pollution
 - *prevent the foreseen traffic catastrophe
 - *maintain the value of our homes

I hope the County Planning Services will listen to our concerns and arrive at the conclusion that the community well being supersedes the individual greed.

Dina Beerle
2627 Sawgrass St, El Cajon, CA 92019

November 17, 2019

Robert Hingtgen
Planning and Development Services
County of San Diego
Via email

Mr. Hingtgen,

I am a resident of the Pasatiempo Development at 3109 Jamacha View Drive. I would like to add my voice to those of many of my neighbors asking you to reject the request to mine sand on the current Cottonwood Golf Course.

My three major reasons are pollution, the impact on property values in the surrounding areas and increased traffic:

Pollution - Mining sand on the scale that has been proposed will generate noise, dust and smog. As you know, there are at least one hundred homes close to the site, a residential rehabilitation facility, a restaurant, other retail stores and an elementary school, all within one half mile. Some homes are ~~within one hundred yards~~ of the first proposed mine. The bulldozers, graders, loaders, conveyor system and trucks will all produce exhaust and mechanical noise that will be heard for miles.

Although dust controls have been promised, all of us will be breathing dust that contains silica, a compound known to produce lung disease. Students of Jamacha Elementary School from kindergarten to fifth grade plus the young residents of Adeona, the rehabilitation facility, will be potential victims of silicosis, an incurable lung disease and other lung ailments.

Smog and foul exhaust orders will be increased greatly with all of the gas and diesel powered equipment that will be used. San Diego County Supervisor, Nathan Fletcher, states in the San Diego Union: "More people die from air-related issues than they do from breast cancer. I think this should serve as a sobering reminder but also a wake-up call for our policy makers that we have to do more."

Property values - Until about one year ago, Cottonwood Golf Course provided an attractive entrance to our property via Willow Glen Drive and Steele Canyon Road. Because the current owner/developer of the sand mine has shut down the western golf course and stopped maintaining it, the area has become unattractive, downright ugly. It is covered with weeds, dead grass, dead trees, a broken down fence and trash. Property values have already begun to decline, even in a robust real estate market.

Increased traffic - I have lived on Jamacha View Drive for eleven years. With the approval and construction of the Jamul Casino, traffic on Campo Road, Jamul Drive, Steele Canyon Road and Willow Glen Drive has already increased dramatically. I understand that the developer has agreed to limit outside truck trips to 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM but we already have traffic jams in this rural community during those hours too and 176 additional truck trips will create a log jam.

There are many other legitimate reasons to deny this operation that my neighbors have listed in various meetings but I have limited comments to my three main ones. Please do not allow this proposal to move forward.

Sincerely,



William S. Beyer

From: Theresa Bingham
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Comments
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 11:54:45 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

I am a resident of, and landowner in, El Cajon, California. This is the City in which the golf course known as Cottonwood has a proposed sand mine major use permit pending.

I strongly oppose this major use permit, overall it does not fit into the character of the existing community and there is no way to mitigate the damage this would cause to San Diego.

First and foremost, that cite is replete with Kumeyaay artifacts and graves. Those graves carry Valley Fever, and as one animal doctor commented at the meeting, many incidents of Valley Fever have appeared in animals in that area recently.

A few years ago, illegal mining activities were conducted by the engineering company that used to own the golf course. Before any new major use permit can be evaluated, the site must be tested for what is known in the trade as dirty backfill. Many artifacts were already stolen, and the dirt used to refill the holes does not comply with existing County Codes and regulations.

In addition, were this project to move forward the cost to the County would greatly outweigh any negligible benefit.

Litigation costs brought by residents could bankrupt San Diego County, no bond is large enough to cover a wrongful death lawsuit should any person be run over by the multitude of planned trucks.

Also, fires have devastated this State, and that many trucks would clog evacuation routes and increase the number of human and animal deaths in the event of fire, for which the County would be sued.

There are many endangered species that depend upon that land as well, from butterflies to Eagles. There is a river that fills a reservoir which helps keep local water rates low, this major use permit would pollute that river and thus the reservoir for decades to come, the cost of the water pollution clean up would be in the millions.

Moreover, large sand cleaning stations would become breeding grounds for mosquitoes known to carry West Nile virus which threatens both human and livestock lives.

The air of all of San Diego County would forever be polluted. Local school children, especially those from Valhalla High School which directly borders Cottonwood, all these children, as well as local elderly, would all be subject to a 30 year cancer risk from black lung and lung cancer, silicosis from the silica in the sand.

Thus, because of known health risks which would plague the existing community, as well as the existence of Valley Fever and West Nile Virus, risks created to already threatened and endangered species, risks created to cultural resources (Kumeyaay artifacts and graves), plus the risks of litigation costs which the County of San Diego would never recover from, this project must be denied in total.

Were this project to be put thru, traffic delays would exceed 5 hours, Jamul Casino would declare bankruptcy because its patrons could not reach their destination in a reasonable amount of time, etc. Existing businesses are therefore just as threatened by this permit's proposal as are school age children, elderly, and anyone owning a home in the area who bought next to a beautiful golf course, never bargaining for an industrial use of any kind, or any type of mining operation.

Also, the permit applicant has a track record for buying golf courses and letting them fall into disrepair.

Another golf course bought by this applicant in Southern California resulted in criminal charges being brought against this applicant. A fire broke out in the structures because the new owner did not maintain them. This particular applicant, Mr. Schlessinger, also once dumped 5 tons of chicken manure on his land to "get back" at local home owners who protested his buy and deflate property values tactics. In other words, when local residents tried to fight back against his mismanagement of property, Mr. Schlessinger responded in a very vindictive manner, by having five tons of chicken shit hauled onto his property to stink up the entire town. This is not the sort of person we want to do business with in East County.

Sincerely,

Theresa Bingham
Attorney at Law



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I strongly oppose this project as it will be extremely detrimental to the community, including:

- Loss of property value
- Damage / deterioration of roads
- Elimination of greenspace, damage to endagered species and unknown damage to flood plain
- Noise pollution
- Visually ugly
- Endangers our children at nearby elementary school
- Violates S-80 zoning an S-88 specific plan zoning

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712


Commenter Signature, Date


Print Name


Address


City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

- violates S80 zoning open space
- violates S88 zoning uses
- Noise pollution from vehicles
- take away public enjoyment to open space/parks
- eye sore
- extreme lower of property values
- wont mitigate enough for project creating

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator

County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Robt P Birney Jr 11/4/19

Commenter Signature, Date

Robert Patrick Birney Jr

Print Name

3254 Reservoir Dr

Address

Jamul CA 91935

City, State, Zip Code

From: Theresa B
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 5:33:19 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am a homeowner in Rancho San Diego and I am against this project for the following reasons:

- 1) The Sweetwater River has a natural floodplain and hydrologic flow through this area, that comes from a dam that releases water from the Loveland Reservoir, which eventually feeds into the Sweetwater Reservoir and Dam to the Sweetwater Marsh, a part of the San Diego Wildlife Refuge and then the San Diego Bay. The Western Pond Turtle, an endangered species, along with other endangered birds call this area home along the route to the San Diego Bay. This sand mine will cause contamination to the water.
- 2) Sand particles are a known carcinogen and the air pollution by mining with the trucks transporting along Winter Glen and Jamacha Road to 94W. 94W is already heavily impacted by traffic coming from surrounding communities. 5 hours and 40 minutes of heavy truck traffic would be on the roads per day causing not only more traffic delays, but more pollution. This area is environmentally sensitive for wildlife.
- 4) Values of homes were decrease, because no one will want to live here.

Please add this letter to the opposing comments to this project. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Theresa Blain

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County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

The Cottonwood sand mine project doesn't specify in details what will happen after 10 years. The owner should submit detailed maps of how the trees will be replanted. There should be a specific park for recreation to compensate the residents for the harm that this project will cause. There should be very strict penalties about working hours. The authorization should indicate that the limit is only 10 years, not more. Any extra time of mining should be fined. There must a large amount of bond against this project.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

11.12.2019

Commenter Signature, Date

Print Name

2498 Sawgrass St.

Address

EL Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

The Cotton Wood Sand mine project will have an adverse impact on the environment and community. Many trees must be destroyed where animals have been using^{it} as their shelters. The County of San Diego stopped many little projects because it would harm the dwelling of only one bird, so how come you can allow such a huge project to proceed without taking into consideration the bad effect on the health of residents, students, and value of homes? All of that is just to support a rich man who wants to add few extra millions of dollars to his bank account.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator

County of San Diego

Planning and Development Services

5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

 11-11-2019

Commenter Signature, Date

Eddie Bota

Print Name

2498 Sawgrass st.

Address

El Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

From: craigbradshaw804@yahoo.com
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: FW: The proposed quarry in Rancho San Diego
Date: Friday, November 08, 2019 12:10:56 PM

Mr Hingtgen

I bought in Corte Madera off Willow Glen Rd when the homes were new, and sold as "A Golf Course Community" in 1987. These are single family homes. Since then, we have been subjected to several changes that impacted our community, i.e. faster road speeds on Willow Glen and the change in flight patterns at Lindbergh Field which sends airliners climbing for altitude over our homes past 11:30PM. The proposed quarry is the final nail in the coffin for our community. We are directly across from Steel Canyon Rd and therefore the proposed quarry operation which is to begin early in the morning and later into the afternoon. I am in my mid-seventies, retired and unable to simply just move. A quarry operation is just too noisy, disruptive, dusty and will degenerate an area of Willow Glen Rd which is frequented by bicycle groups because of its open and rural character. Please consider us and reject this quarry operation on Willow Glen Rd. as an unnecessary blight on the entire area that will have a huge impact on those of us who, in good faith bought into Corte Madera for the peace and tranquility of an R-1 neighborhood.

Regards
Craig Bradshaw
2355 Prince Edward Ct,
Rancho San Diego



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE
(PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

Here are my thoughts and those who live around here (Cottonwood), SD General Plan, Valle de Oro

must be consistent with Ranch SD Specific Plan.

- ② Safety hazard for traffic increases - most roads are already heavily trafficed.
- ③ Biological resources - protected wetlands, endangered species will be impacted
- ④ Air, noise will be impacted as well
- ⑤ Protect our drinking water - proposal will pollute Sweetwater reservoir and the river

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

*Submitted by: Mark F. Lant, Environmental Coordinator
Robert Hingaen, Environmental Coordinator*

**Robert Flanagan, ENR
County of San Diego**

**County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services**

Planning and Development Co.
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310

8875 Overland Ave., S
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hinataen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Joon Brie 11/13/19
Commenter Signature, Date

Commenter Signature, Date

Joan Brice

Print Name

3540 Comed Ave Print

Address

Sandip, G 92117
City St

City, State, Zip Code

From: [Steven, Heather](#)
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: FW: Sand Mine @ Cottonwood
Date: Tuesday, November 05, 2019 10:28:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Heather Steven
☎ 858.495.5802



County of San Diego
Diversity & Inclusion

From: Tim Bro <timbro97@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2019 9:51 AM
To: Steven, Heather <Heather.Steven@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: Sand Mine @ Cottonwood

Hi Heather,

Wanted to express complete dissatisfaction with the proposed sand mine plan. I moved to Rancho San Diego from San Diego proper to get away from the crazy developments, noise, traffic and this proposal would take away from the reasons people live there.

Being in real estate myself, I understand property usage and highest and best use. But this is in direct conflict with health and safety tenants. With the quarry mine just down the road on Willow Glen, the last thing we need is more trucks to further overburden the highway infrastructure, leave more debris on our roads and air, and add another level of noise pollution.

The traffic in the area has increased dramatically with the Sycuan hotel addition and the thought of more heavy equipment and huge trucks on that road is just unsafe.

Thank you for taking into consideration the negative ramifications of this project.

Thank you,
Tim

Timothy A Brodowski
Real Estate Wealth Adviser
Global Luxury Home Specialist (ILHM Certified)
MBA, SRES, CNE, BPOR, GRI, CIEA
Military Residential Specialist Certified (MilRes)
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
858-354-2354 Cell

DRE# 01224576

www.TimBroHomes.us

timbrohomes.blogspot.com

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TimBroHomesUS>

[Click here to find me on Yelp.com](#)

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From: Brubins1 .
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sand Mining
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019 7:42:26 PM

Too many residents against this project. We need housing out here and a better tax base for local county services.

No Sand mines

From: george bugari <gbugari2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Steven, Heather <Heather.Steven@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Jacob, Dianne <Dianne.Jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Cc: george Yahoo Bugarin <gbugari2000@yahoo.com>
Subject: cotton wood mine

As a member of the Rancho San Diego Community. I am contacting you to let you know that we oppose the opening a sand mine because:

This mine has a potential for significant impacts on the environment. Major impacted areas may include problems with noise, water and air quality.

The Valle de Oro Community Plan states that new projects must eliminate safety hazards caused by direct access of traffic onto major arterial or collector streets. Technical studies will be required of the project applicant regarding fire protection planning and traffic.

There are two facilities serving children adjacent to the proposed Sand Mine. These vulnerable children who would be impacted by the hazards of a Sand Mine and subsequent heavy truck traffic, exhaust, and noise include **Adeona Healthcare**, a residential treatment facility for 70 adolescents dealing with substance abuse and mental health disorders (including trauma) and **Jamacha Elementary & Extended Day Program**, a very busy public school serving over 500 students from Kindergarten to Fifth grade.

I would you like to have these issues in your backyard....?

Sincerely

George Bugarin
Esperanza Bugarin
Nov 9th, 2019

From: Kathy Butterfield
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 5:13:32 PM

Date: November 13, 2019

From: Kathy Butterfield, butterfldk@cox.net
3036 Palm Vista Ct., El Cajon, CA 92019

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,
Kathy Butterfield

Dear County of San Diego Planning

Please do not approve the Cottonwood mining project. This project seeks to dredge into the Sweetwater River, River bed down as much as 40 feet. Its not like this section of River couldn't use some restoration but tearing things up with the promise of then fixing them is not in the spirit of CEQA nor NEPA.

This project is adjacent to two USFWS refuges, one immediately downstream that cannot help but be impacted and one to the south on Mt McGinty. Otherwise it is surrounded by urban houses, schools, shopping and main roads. A quarry in the middle of urban landscape or a wildlife refuge does not seem at all appropriate. In the end it will produce a lake 200 feet wide and up to 2 miles long which could seriously alter the river flow and River Ecology of the Sweetwater below.

What is the real intention of this project? A lake and more houses? It would make a lot more sense to reinvent the golf course with more organic management and a restoration of the river or alternatively fully restored as open space.

The impact to several thousand people, a community college, an elementary school, - which by the way necessitates extra background checks of all workmen does it not, the main road in and out of Jamul and El Cajon and to a Casino resort and other golf courses.

The noise and dust are bad enough, but this is the riverbed of a major river in this county delineating a major watershed. Rivers in the San Diego Mediterranean Ecosystem do not necessarily have water in them but at times they can flood. The water flow can be very dynamic. How does altering the flow of the Sweetwater comply with the Clean Water Act? The project will obliterate any and all reptiles and amphibians in the stream bed. How does this comply with endangered species Act and with multiple species corridors? Additionally, the project seeks to remove all of the vegetation in the project area. This completely wipes out the ecology of the area. How does this comply with CEQA or with again the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air and Clean Water Act? The project seeks to gut the entire valley and then widen a 20 foot river channel into one that is 200 to 300 feet wide. This could change the flow as well as the hydrology of the area. An area could be much wetter than before and under water longer or dryer longer. The changes and animates the ecology of the area. How is this compliant with any environmental law?

The Sweetwater begins behind Lake Cuyamaca and flows a long way to San Diego Bay. Dredging this river could wreak havoc on the ecology for a long way. I think this is not a good use of this land while it does need some care.

I have been up on Mt McGinty several times. It is not quite wilderness quality, but it is very wild and remote and contains many trails that the public can hike and horse back ride. From up on McGinty I could see the existing mining operations. They are a miserably blight to the scenery and a stark contrast to the wild McGinty.

What lighting will be used on this project? How do you plan to cooperate with the dark sky ordinance?

The amount of rather haphazard development in this area is already tragic. Wild comes in close and in stark contrast and juxtaposition to urban development. How are you planning to manage threats of fire so close to homes especially working right under a major transmission line? The golf course walk was very peaceful. How are you planning to mitigate the noise of these operations? What hours are they planning to keep? Are you prepared to replace everyone's windshield out there from trucking out rock on Willow Glen Road?

How will you protect cars on Steel Canyon Road from the operations and elevators proposed underneath?

How will you mitigate mosquitos with the amount of standing water produced near urban houses? How will you do this and protect the ecology of the river as well as people?

Additionally, this proposed project operates under some high-tension powerlines. How does this impact service and reliability of these lines? Has SDG&E reviewed and accepted this plan? This project would be placing some of these power poles ultimately in the middle of a lake. Is SDG&E aware of this? Are these poles rated to be underwater safely?

I visited the golf course on a Sunday and on a Thursday after a substantial rain fall, and it had a fair number of customers even as evening was falling. This removes a substantial area of recreation and open space. It provides a terrible blight noise and dust in juxtaposition of Mt McGinty wildlife refuge as well.

Please make me a commenter of record for these comments. Please see photos attached.

Sincerely,

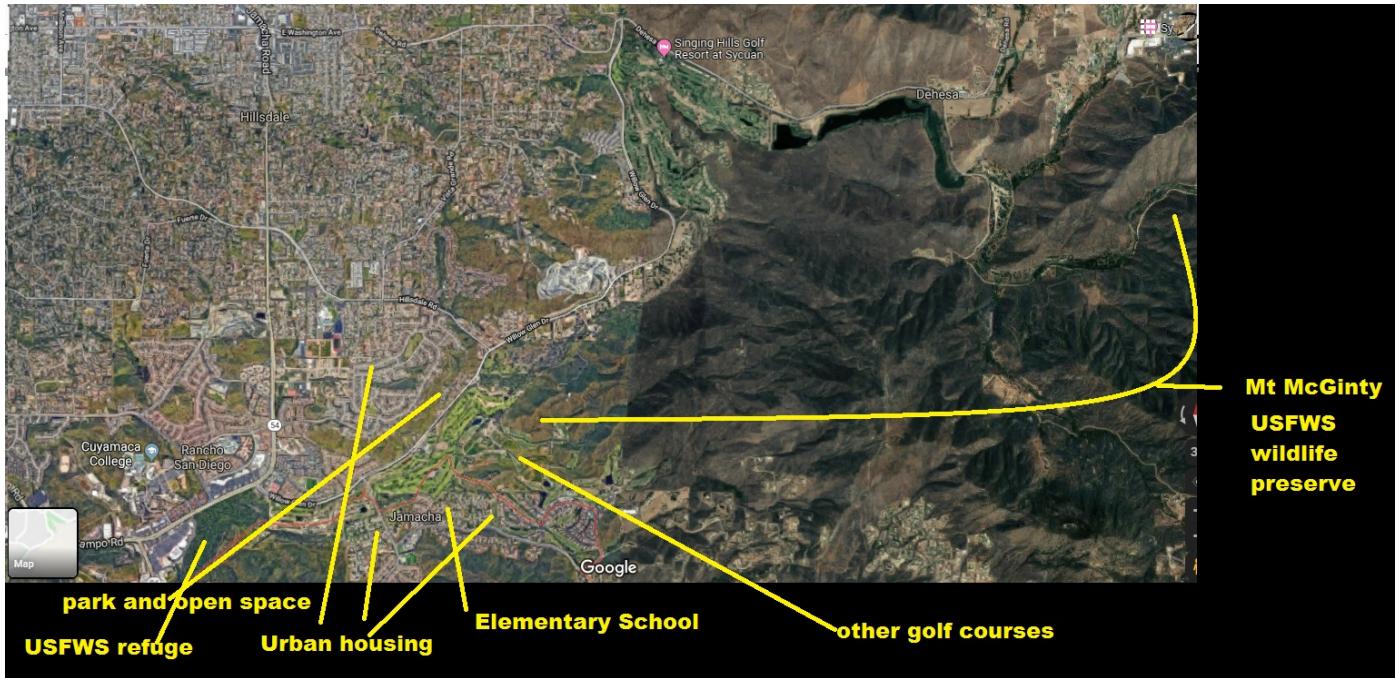
Cynthia M Buxton

541 Spruce Street

Imperial Beach, CA 91932

(619) 823-3620

November 21, 2019



Everything in these pictures would be scraped away to bare dirt and dug down an average of 20 feet. Note the river bed photos, the proximity of homes to this project and the power lines.



















