



Land managers, arborists, foresters and landowners who are responsible for the stewardship of oaks and oak woodlands should be up to date on the latest information about the problems and how to avoid or minimize losses.

http://ucanr.edu/sites/gsobinfo/Diagnosis_and_Management/Management_Options/

Infested Dead and Downed Trees

GSOB larvae continue to develop in infested, dying and dead trees with green wood including logs and firewood from recently killed trees. It is important to properly manage oak firewood harboring GSOB and limit the impact of the pest. **Do not remove oak firewood from local infested areas** to prevent the potential spread of GSOB in new areas. Without treatment, larvae in the cut wood continue to be a threat to other susceptible oaks.

Grinding/Chipping

Containment Strategy

Debarking and Drying

Other Options

Heat Treatment of infested wood material at 160°F for a minimum of 75 minutes in an automated wood-drying kiln has been shown to eliminate many insects and diseases from firewood. These kilns have the capability of measuring and recording temperature and duration well inside a pile of wood. However, no scientific study has been conducted to confirm that this temperature and time standard will kill GSOB.

If GSOB is present, how is the wood going to be managed?

Robin Pawl
14512 Willow Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Fogg, Mindy
Cc: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: El Monte Valley Sand Mining Project

From: Terry Burke-Eiserling [<mailto:tburkeiserling@cox.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 8:16 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: robert.hingtgen@sdcountry.ca.gov; Orozco, Juliette; Fogg, Mindy
Subject: El Monte Valley Sand Mining Project

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am very concerned about the fragile environment of our El Monte Valley and the proposed Sand Mining Project. I ask that you consider my thoughts and opinions as a respected community member regarding this very special valley.

This project isn't a temporary 15 year project...once this is approved the damage is done, and in my lifetime I will not see a full reversal of it's impact on the water table, the wildlife, and the many native plants that make up this valley. Given the fragility of our water needs in our community and the overt and news worthy evidence of wild animals entering neighborhoods as their water areas are drying up and disappearing. It is clear that this drought and potential damage to most water environments needs to be protected. None of us in our state can afford to add a business to our community that uses water as part of its maintenance process and production. This is not a project of recycling the water like a car wash...this is using up the water table. This is serious and needs serious consideration to the remaining families, businesses and wildlife in El Monte Valley. Once the groundwater has been compromised, the rest of the ecosystem will become truly unbalanced for all.

I do understand in some years past there was sand mining done in this valley, then a proposed golf course that is in some kind of litigation. What has happened since the sand mining stopped is the ability of the valley to regenerate to part of its natural environment. Through the years a lack of documentation of what was present in the valley prior to the last sand mining use to what has been lost cannot be documented. What is gone is gone and has not recovered. We all remember climbing through trails and finding honney toads...I haven't seen one in many years. The idea of mining this area and steering up dusts and environment hazards no matter how much water you use to keep the dust down (note above comments from first paragraph) will not be effective. Having lived next to a house project the amount of dust that has come up with no regard to my household is alarming. The fact that Hazardous Materials were involved and required special removal made me fearful for my health and my families health. Still the clouds of dust and dirt remain a problem for me. This valley and these families cannot afford to be made ill from Valley Fever or any other pathogens that may occur especially to medically fragile individuals.

I love El Monte Valley, the County has already recognized its strengths and structures in that they have approved and maintained El Monte County Park, and the pretty new Trail and Staging area for riding and hiking. That in and of itself speaks miles of the value of preserving this land and water for our residents. El

Monte Valley does matter and it seems to allow a sand mining project to go into this valley is in conflict with the very nature and mission of our San Diego County Parks Department and Trail Systems. This is a pristine valley and it takes my breath away each time I visit it...I don't want to see this environment disturbed in any manner.

Terry Burke-Eiserling
9071 Westhill Road
Lakeside, CA 92040
619-443-6114

EL MONTE SAND MINE & NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

August 13, 2015 through September 14, 2015

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT SHEET

NOP Scoping Meeting August 26, 2015

Lakeside Community Center

9841 Vine Street

Lakeside, California 92040

RECEIVED
SEP 10 2015

Planning and
Development Services

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The El Monte Sand Mine ~~should~~ should not be allowed.

Hundreds of trucks operating on a narrow, winding road would create dust containing Valley Fever which prevailing winds would carry for miles. The dust pollution would make residents prone to sickness and aggravate those with asthma.

Thank you for the opportunity to

(Attach additional pages as needed)

OPPOSE this ~~environmental~~ environmental disaster.

Signature

Date 9/

ANDREA W. LYON
Print Name

4050 ST. JAMES PL.

Address

SAN DIEGO CA 92103

City

State

Zip Code

MAIL or E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone#: (858) 694-3820
e-mail: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

EL MONTE SAND MINE & NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
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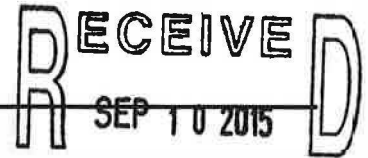
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT SHEET

NOP Scoping Meeting August 26, 2015

Lakeside Community Center

9841 Vine Street

Lakeside, California 92040



WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

Sand Mining will be a disaster for Residents
of Willow Road and El Monte Road. The Wells
will be adversely effect if not entirely drained.
Trucks on El Monte Road will be very dangerous.
The Road is not meant to handle heavy traffic.
Trucks of that volume going past The High School
added to the Barona traffic will be impossible
and a tragedy waiting to happen. These Roads
are already overburdened. IF damage is done
to our wells we will take legal action.

(Attach additional pages as needed)

Carol J Wells 9/16/15
Signature Date

Carol J Wells
Print Name

13220 Willow Rd.
Address

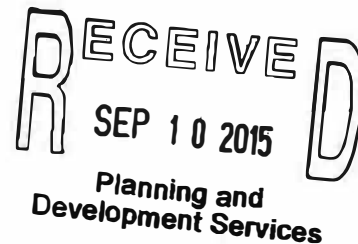
Lakeside Ca 92040
City State Zip Code

MAIL or E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone#: (858) 694-3820
e-mail: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

September 7, 2015
Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego California 92123



Dear Mr. Bennett,

My name is Elizabeth How and I live at 14512 Willow Road in Lakeside and I have many concerns about the proposed development of a sand mine and plant in the El Monte Valley in Lakeside, the first of which is water use!

The only water we have available to us in our homes comes from our own wells. What will happen to our wells when this company digs a ninety-acre pit 90 feet deep across the street from our homes? What will happen to the aquifer? Will it be depleted and our wells dry up? Where will the 132 acre-feet, which converts to 43,012,388 gallons, [That's 43 million, twelve thousand, three hundred and eighty-eight gallons] [and this is by their own estimate] of water necessary to wash 1.5 million tons of sand each year, come from? That's for only the first year. The sand-mining proposal is for 15 years. That comes to a total use of 1,988 acre-feet of water, which converts to 645,185,825 gallons. That's **six hundred forty-five million, one hundred eighty-five thousand eight hundred twenty-five gallons** of water taken from the aquifer...by their **own estimate!**

The El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve's own Environmental Review Update Form [dated August 13, 2015] says:

Water usage depends on production volume; however, the project's estimated water usage assumes the maximum annual production of **1.5-million tons**. Water required for dust control, watering of outgoing loads, and for the processing equipment is estimated at **132 acre-feet annually** for this production rate. The project would **obtain its water from onsite wells and ponds once sand extraction activities extend below the water table.**

[Emphases ours.]

Where will it come from? From us, of course. The El Monte Mine and *Nature Preserve* just said so!

Also, San Diego County is doing its best to conserve whatever water it can during the worst drought ever recorded. What about contamination of the water? Most of us have devoted our life's savings into buying and maintaining our homes and businesses here in the El Monte Valley. Who would buy a home with no water, located across the street from a giant sand pit and sand-washing facility serviced by 200 trucks a day?

Stripping 90 feet of topsoil away from the valley floor, then piling it, dumping it, loading it and transporting it by our homes may expose us to Valley Fever. According to the Center for Disease Control, this is a reportable disease endemic to California. It is endemic to the El Monte Valley. Cases of Valley Fever have already been diagnosed here. Infection is spread through disruption of the soil. The proposed sand pit is fewer than 3 miles upwind of El Capitan High School, where about 2000 children go to school.

According to the Mayo Clinic, "Valley fever is a fungal infection caused by coccidioides (kok-sid-e-OY-deze) organisms. It can cause fever, chest pain and coughing, among other signs and symptoms.

Two species of coccidioides fungi cause valley fever. These fungi are commonly found in soil in specific regions. The fungi's spores can be stirred into the air by anything that disrupts the soil, such as farming, construction and wind.

Like many other fungi, coccidioides species have a complex life cycle. In the soil, they grow as a mold with long filaments that break off into airborne spores when the soil is disturbed.

The spores are extremely small and can be carried hundreds of miles by the wind. Once inside the lungs, the spores reproduce, perpetuating the cycle of the disease.

The fungi can then be breathed into the lungs and cause valley fever, also known as acute coccidioidomycosis (kok-sid-e-oy-doh-my-KOH-sis). Mild cases of valley fever usually resolve on their own. In more severe cases, doctors prescribe antifungal medications that can treat the underlying infection.

Complications of coccidioidomycosis may include:

- **Severe pneumonia.** Most people recover from coccidioidomycosis-related pneumonia without complications. Others, mainly Filipinos, Hispanics, blacks, Native Americans and those with weakened immune systems, may become seriously ill.
- **Ruptured lung nodules.** A small percentage of people develop thin-walled nodules (cavities) in their lungs. Many of these eventually disappear without causing any problems, but some may rupture, causing chest pain and difficulty breathing. A ruptured lung nodule might require the placement of a tube into the space around the lungs to remove the air or surgery to repair the damage.
- **Disseminated disease.** This is the most serious complication of coccidioidomycosis. If the fungus spreads (disseminates) throughout the body, it can cause problems ranging from skin ulcers and abscesses to bone lesions, severe joint pain, heart inflammation, urinary tract problems and meningitis — a potentially fatal infection of the membranes and fluid covering the brain and spinal cord.

[www.mayoclinic.org/diseases.../valley-fever/]

The United States Center For Disease Control says: "**Currently there is no vaccine to prevent Valley Fever...**]

[<http://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/coccidioidomycosis/risk-prevention.html>]

Will the El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve Company pay our medical bills when we contract Valley Fever?

I am also concerned about truck and machine maintenance. Where will it be done? And when? If at night, what about noise and light pollution? Will they work all night? What happens to the hazardous waste such as oil, grease, diesel, solvents, different belts, and exhaust fumes? What are the codes and/or guidelines for disposal of these things? Where will the trucks be based? Over 200 sand trucks a day will be on our roads! What about the heavily loaded traffic on our county roads and our freeways?

Another factor that concerns me is the destruction of the natural ecology. According to the County of San Diego, wildlife corridors and habitat linkages are part of its Conservation and Open Space policy. They state:

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND HABITAT LINKAGES

Significant portions of the County are publicly owned, including areas designated as open space preserves and parks, National Forests, and State Parks. The County strives to work harmoniously with all such entities to achieve common goals. Important wildlife corridors and linkages have been identified to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, especially to significant public lands. Species that are well-distributed across their ranges are less susceptible to extinction than species confined to small portions of their range. Therefore, maintaining large, inter-connected blocks of habitat containing sizable and diverse populations of sensitive species is superior to a fragmented landscape with undersized populations. Figure C-1 (Habitat Conservation Programs) identifies existing preserve areas, along with areas where a connected system of preserves will be established as additional easements are recorded for open space and/or lands are acquired for public benefit.

[http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/gpupdate/docs/BOS_Aug2011/C.1-4_Conservation_and_Open_Space.pdf]

The El Monte Valley is an important wildlife habitat corridor linking the coastal and riparian San Diego River natural areas to the inland Cleveland National Forest and Anza-Borrego Desert. This vital corridor needs to be preserved for our future generations.

The El Monte Valley is situated within the San Diego River Watershed area and is designated for use as municipal and domestic water supply as well as **wildlife habitat; and rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat**. (California RWQCB 1994).

Endangered Plant Species

According to the El Monte County Park Resource Plan, there are at least four special status endangered plant species endemic to the El Monte Valley.

Delicate Clarkia (also known as Campo clarkia) (*Clarkia delicata*)

San Diego Sunflower (*Viguiera laciniata*)

California black walnut (*Juglans californica*)

Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)

Lakeside Ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*)

Endangered Animal Species

According to the **Multiple Species Conservation Program, (MSCP)**, there are fourteen rare, endangered, or threatened animal species native to the El Monte Valley. They include:

Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*)

Red-Shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)

Western Red Bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*)

Townsend's Big-Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)

Pocketed Free-Tailed Bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*)

Western Mastiff Bat (*Eumops perotis*)

Western Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus [=Spea] hammondii*)

Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)

California Legless Lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)

San Diego Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*)

Coronado Skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis*)

Orange-Throated Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*)

Coastal Western Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*)

Coastal Rosy Boa (*Charina trivirgata roseofusca*)

Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*)

All of these rare, endangered, or threatened species, a part of our natural heritage, need to be protected, especially from having ***their entire environment strip-mined and trucked away.***

Beyond the permanent social, economic, ecological and community resources destroyed or damaged by the sand mining operation, there are archaeological sites present in the El Monte Valley. These include bedrock milling sites, which represent the worksites and tools of Late Prehistoric Deigueño/Kumeyaay peoples who occupied this region prior to the mid-nineteenth century.

All of these concerns are important and need to be taken under consideration by your committee.

Thank you for your time and your efforts to help save Lakeside's beautiful valley.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth K. How

Email: elizabethhow1935@att.net

14512 Willow Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

EL MONTE SAND MINE & NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
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NOP Scoping Meeting August 26, 2015

Lakeside Community Center

9841 Vine Street

Lakeside, California 92040

RECEIVED
SEP 10 2015

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

**Planning and
Development Services**

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The El Monte Sand Mine is a bad
idea - its operation would destroy the
beauty of El Monte Valley and create
dust which could spread the Valley
Fever which is documented to be in
the soil.

I oppose the Sand Mine

Thank You

(Attach additional pages as needed)

Signature

Date

John Lyon

Print Name

4306 WILKINSON ST

Address

510

CA

92103

City

State

Zip Code

MAIL or E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone#: (858) 694-3820
e-mail: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Comments from El Monte Residents regarding proposed sand mining project

From: Linda Hayes [<mailto:linda@hazymeadow.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 4:37 PM
To: Hingtgen, Robert J; Bennett, Jim
Subject: Comments from El Monte Residents regarding proposed sand mining project

County of San Diego Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Ste.#310
San Diego, CA 92123

September 10, 2015

El Monte Sand Mining (NOP) of Environmental Impact Report
Public Review
Public Scoping Meeting Comment Sheet:

1. This written Comment Form is specifically directed at those in attendance from San Diego County on the Public Scoping meeting on 8/26/15.

My husband, Larry E. Hayes, and I, Linda Hayes have, since 1986 (29 years), have lived on, and payed property taxes for, the property, located at 15466 El Monte Road. I am writing to you in response to the EIR committee's inquiry regarding the perspective and objections, of El Monte Valley residents regarding the proposed "sand mining operation" proposed in the El Monte Valley.

El Monte Valley is one of the last unspoiled valleys in Southern California, and is designated as an official "Scenic Corridor". The proposed sand mining operation is not compatible with the "Scenic Corridor" and will effectively destroy, the current, tranquil quality of life chosen by **all** of the inhabitants of the valley, as well as thousands of citizens who travel to the El Monte Valley, in order to enjoy the two county parks (Lake Jennings Park, El Monte State Park, and the El Capitan Reservoir that are located in the El Monte Valley. The sand mining project, will also negatively impact the extremely expensive residences of Blossom Valley, who prize the "million dollar views" from their properties above the El Monte Valley.

Although the **sand mining project** (in order to gain public approval) is called a "Habitat Restoration Project", in truth, before **(and if)** a restoration takes place, the sand mining project, first, **will decimate all wildlife and plant life** currently existing in the projected sand mining swath through the valley. Species to be obliterated include several endangered animal species, including the Golden Eagle, and centuries-old California Live Oak Trees that grow, **only** in very limited areas in Southern California. **Animal displacement**, of those creatures fleeing their destroyed habitats, onto existing residential properties, will occur. **Fleas** from mice, squirrels, rats, raccoons, bobcats, cougars, can **spread bubonic plague**. **Poisonous snakes will relocate and be of danger to humans and pets**. Our own dog was bitten by a large rattlesnake, that sought refuge in our own fenced back yard, when new neighbors cleared away debris on the land they had purchased.

The sand mining will destroy the livelihoods, and property values of all El Monte Valley residents, whose land is currently zoned agricultural, and who depend solely upon their wells for drinking water, for human and animal consumption, as well as for irrigation purposes. Residential businesses will be ruined; such as the many horse boarding operations, wedding and party venues, avian breeding facilities, annual pumpkin patch, and field trip destinations for the many schools who bring thousands of children to experience "the country/agricultural life" etc., who, all, "market" El Monte Valley's peace and tranquility, that is so rarely found today.

The sand mining project by ruining wells, will obliterate El Monte Valley residents' property values, and render the properties un-sellable, (all dependent upon wells). Properties will have no water source, after the sand mining operation drains the El Monte Valley aquifer. This aquifer also provides water to citizens beyond the valley itself. In a time of (by the California governor's proclamation) severe drought and water shortage, burdened with an ever increasing population demand upon existing water resources, it is unconscionable that Mark Weston, formerly the Helix Water district's manager, and now the Chair of the San Diego Water Authority, could sanction a mining project, in a populated area, that will destroy a valuable water resource (the El Monte aquifer) that serves many citizens. It is a conflict of interest for Weston to be in a position of responsibility for the preservation of water resources, and at the same time be involved with the proposed sand mining operation, that will destroy an important water aquifer. **Without our wells, we cannot use, nor, will be able to sell our property.**

Owners of the sand mining operation should be insured and/or bonded for an amount equal to the property value loss of El Monte and Blossom Valley residents, **to enable payment of claims for property value losses due to lack of water,** which will bring about litigations.

There is a strong, constant westerly wind through the El Monte Valley. The proposed sand mining operation will cause the **pollution of the air,** with airborne contaminants, including the existing (in the El Monte Valley) coccidiomycosis "valley fever spores" to residents to the east of the sand mining project, above the project (Blossom Valley) as well as to the thousands of visitors to the El Monte parks and reservoir, as well as to children attending Oma's pumpkin patch and children on school field trips, to the dairy. Those working on the sand mining project, will stand a chance of contracting "valley fever", who then, can spread that disease to others in their realm of contacts. Blossom Valley residents, will suffer from the same airborne pollution.

The El Monte Valley is bordered by steep canyon walls. As the current residents know, well, sound reverberates off of the canyon walls, so the noise of the proposed sand mining project, machinery and 462- 10-wheel trucks, daily, will **cause stressful, noise pollution** to all those residents east (down wind) of the mining project, and above (Blossom Valley residents) the mining project, as well. Noise is injurious to humans, animals, and birds.

The El Monte Valley is designated as a "scenic corridor". We residents of the valley are subject to the scrutiny, and must earn the approval of the County, before erecting any structure on our private properties that could be deemed, by the County, as "unsightly" from El Monte Road. **The proposed sand mining operation is incompatible with the El Monte Valley's "Scenic Corridor" designation, and should be held to the same restrictions, as are the El Monte Valley residents.**

The sand that now filters the water of the valuable El Monte Valley aquifer will be removed to a level of 90 feet. Our own well is currently 80 feet deep. The proposed mining project will last 15 no 20 years, with no guarantee that the mining will end at that point, nor any guarantee that the mined area will actually be restored. **Former mining projects have not been restored, and are left as an ugly eyesore.** My husband and myself are senior citizens, who sought a life in the El Monte Valley, and will not live to see the end of this project.

As the construction of the dam at the El Capitan Reservoir affectively stopped the movement westward of the sand, once removed the **sand will not be replenished, and will leave a mud plain, and a dangerous breeding site for mosquitos and West Nile Virus.**

If the proposed mining project lowers the valley level to 90 feet, then all **properties upstream (to the east) of the project will be subject to losing our own property (soil) during heavy rains, as our own land will be carried downstream, to the lower area of the sand collection pit.** In 1986 a former land owner, in El Monte Valley, owner, to our direct west, stated that he lost 8 acres, of his property, in one heavy rain, when the Nelson-Sloan sand pit was in operation. down stream to his land. Our own fence line to the north, that borders the "riverbed" was washed away when the dam overflowed years ago. We fear that the portion of our land, with which we earn our income, that borders the "San Diego River bed" will be washed down to lower elevation of the mining pits, in heavy rains.

The availability of sand from other sources, and the re-cycling of cement, should mean that is is not necessary to mine the sand in the inhabited El Monte Valley. There are thousands of miles of unused land, in the US deserts, and in

Mexico, where sand can be mined without the destruction of the lives of the pre-existing El Monte Valley residents, flora, and fauna.

The mining operation has been described as a 15 to 20 year project, starting at 7:00 a.m., until dusk, daily, excavation being conducted five or six (description varies) days a week, and requiring **several hundred, DAILY**, ten-wheel truck+trailer trips **in and then out of our narrow valley!** El Monte Road is a narrow, winding road, already noted for numerous fatal vehicle accidents. Even if the mining project builds its own road down the center of the valley, the traffic will ALL converge at the neck of the valley, creating a nightmare bottleneck! The additional truck **traffic will, be hazardous, as El Monte Valley has only one small road for entry and egress.** Such increased truck traffic will cause traffic congestion, and a severe danger, to those trying to escape in the advent of fire.

El Monte River Valley has been the path for countless horseback trail riders for centuries. (Helix is a relatively recent "owner" of the valley.) After the sand mining project is terminated (at a point which some of us will be too old to still be riding horses) horse traffic will be restricted to a (boring) perimeter, multi-use (a dangerous mix for equestrians; bikes, hikers, and horses **are not compatible**) trail. The El Monte Valley has one of the largest horse-populations in the nation; it is truly a shame to rip this popular recreational activity away from so many horse-enthusiasts, who travel from considerable distances, to board or to ride their horses in the El Monte Valley.

Thank you for taking the time to read, and to consider the objections of the valley (El Monte Valley and Blossom Valley) residents, **and** the thousands of people who visit El Monte Valley, who, all, desire to save the resources and integrity of; the El Monte River Valley, as it exists today. In 1986, we were required to obtain a Major Use Permit, to open our small business, and were made to mitigate **all** the concerns of our neighbors, **which we did.** I hope that the proposed sand mining project will have to thoroughly mitigate **all of the El Monte Valley residents' concerns**, or if they cannot that, that they will abandon the El Monte Valley sand mining project.

Linda and Larry Hayes

Hazy Meadow Ranch & Carriage

15466 El Monte Road, Lakeside, California 92040

619-561-7050

Linda Hayes
Linda Hayes

**HAZY MEADOW RANCH &
CARRIAGE**

(O) 619.561.7050 (F) 206.309.1587

**15466 El Monte Road
Lakeside, California 92040
www.hazymeadow.com**

9-8-15

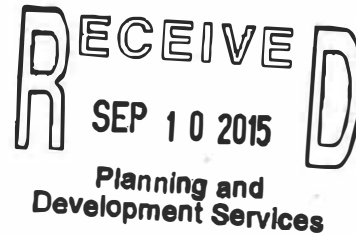
Planning and Development Services

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

Attention Jim Bennett

5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92123



Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR for the above referenced project. We have been to El Monte Valley many times and are aware that this project may have many environmental impacts.

During the preparation of the EIR, please make sure to fully address:

- Visual impacts to a scenic valley that is a popular recreational destination.
- The impact of permanent loss of agricultural potential of this rich alluvial Valley.
- Greenhouses gases associated with aggregate mining and cement manufacture.
- Issues associated with interruption of an important wildlife corridor.
- Hazards associated with particulate emissions from a site known to contain Valley Fever, and also hazardous to wildlife, domestic stock, bird life and humans associated with West Nile Virus.
- Impacts to bats and to raptors.
- Impacts to soil organisms.
- Impacts to the aquifer, wells, and habitat and wildlife dependent on the aquifer, etc.

Sincerely,

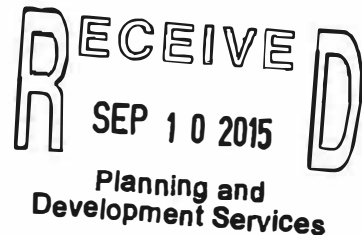
Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is for Michael Roth and the second is for Andrea Roth. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael & Andrea Roth
11605 Legendale Drive
Lakeside, CA 92040 -1021
Andrea 619.857.5225
Michael 619.807.9169

Michael C. Van Nostrand
Antonina M. Van Nostrand
11019 Fillbrook Drive
Lakeside, CA 92040

September 7, 2015

County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123



Re: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2. {DS2015-RP-15-001, Log No. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the proposed project referenced above, we categorically oppose any development of the San Diego River in El Monte Valley.

Lakeside residents have been subjected to Powerlink in our backyards, and are already compromised with less and less access to open area use for biking, hiking, and horseback trail riding. There are already several sand mining operations within the Lakeside area; to add more to an already impacted area would be irresponsible at best, and a violation of the very tenants Lakeside was built upon. Rural in character, housing one of the few rodeo grounds left, horse ownership per capital one of the highest in the nation, Lakeside doesn't need or want additional eyesores to our community.

Further, such projects do not bring any benefit to the area. There are no tax benefits to the community. Roads are not improved based on these businesses. Schools are not improved with additional tax dollars. There is no significant job creation. Traffic to surrounding areas is already overloaded with traffic to Barona Casino and Resort. Our local high school suffers the impact already: students are often seen taking their life in their hands by walking along Ashwood to access their school grounds. It almost took an act of God for one resident to hound Dianne Jacobs office for traffic calming measure to be taken along Willow Road, where horses have been hit and killed by moving vehicles, and local residents attempting to turn onto their own side streets have been rear ended by what we assume are persons intent on getting to the casino quickly. We stand in solidarity with the residents along the roads stated in the plan; El Monte Road and Lake Jennings Road residents are already plagued by boaters heading to the El Capitan reservoir. And while the plan notes the historical agricultural use, it fails to address the impact to crop areas and the dairy.

The reference and name of this project as a Nature Preserve is an obvious attempt to mischaracterize the nature of the proposed plan. Anyone with a horse who attempts to ride locally, or those interested in walking along the Riverwalk project, are already assaulted by the affects of the current sand mining in the area. "Recreational trail easements" as referenced in the plan is a laughable attempt to appease local users of the area. Few environmental impact studies (if any) serve to adequately taken into consideration the true impact of development, and is usually just one step in the process to get a project approved.

These are not simple objections that can be characterized by NIMBY. Lakeside already has enough projects that were unwanted in other areas, and we can only assume homeowners' objections were overridden at the time by San Diego County officials and the large companies that want to do business here. Place this project in a less dense area, where the land is not already used to enjoy a walk or a ride. We find it hard to believe that the County of San Diego cannot find a more suitable place to obtain the aggregate materials referenced in the plan.

We cannot state our objections emphatically enough to the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Van Nostrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "V".

Michael C. Van Nostrand

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonina M. Van Nostrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" and "V".

Antonina M. Van Nostrand

cc: Dianne Jacobs, County Supervisor

EL MONTE SAND MINE & NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

August 13, 2015 through September 14, 2015

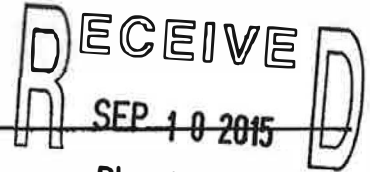
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT SHEET

NOP Scoping Meeting August 26, 2015

Lakeside Community Center

9841 Vine Street

Lakeside, California 92040



WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

Planning and
Development Services

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I would like to oppose the development of the El Monte Sand Mine. Adding hundreds of trucks on this narrow, winding road would make it even more dangerous for residents and the hundreds of recreational boaters that use El Monte Road.

The air pollution from the dust that would be created would increase lung and breathing problems. Thank you

(Attach additional pages as needed)

Myron C. Lyon 9/8/15
Signature Date

MYRON C. LYON
Print Name

MAIL or E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:

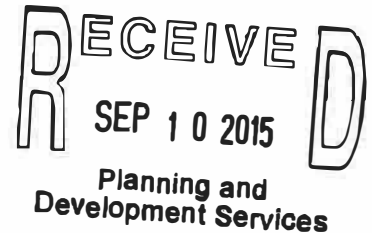
Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone#: (858) 694-3820
e-mail: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

4050 ST. JAMES PL.
Address
SAN DIEGO CA 92103
City State Zip Code

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

September 8, 2015

Planning and Development Services
Reference PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2,
PDS2015-RP-15-001 Log No. PDS2015-ER-98-14016B
Attention Jim Bennett
5510 Overland Avenue, Ste. 310
San Diego, CA 92123



Dear Mr. Bennett,

I'm writing in hopes to share my concerns regarding Sand Mining in El Monte Valley. I grew up in the valley, along with many close friends. I rode the bus to Lindo Lake Elementary with many who are now raising families in this valley. I recently was married at my parent's home, a home in which they've resided for 35 years. Our family and friends were in awe of the beauty of the valley and it's pristine views of El Capitan. Lakeside is no longer the tourist attraction it was in the early 20th century when city folk took the train out to race and bet on automobiles speeding around Lindo Lake, but it is the backyard and playground of East County.

Since I was a little girl I've watched El Monte Road teem with families towing boats and jet skis down to the reservoir every weekend, neighbors riding horse trails through the valley, the Van Ommerings bringing calves into the world on Dairy Road, peacocks and coyotes roaming the valley, paragliders making triumphant landings from the hills of Blossom Valley. I've had multiple friends married on ranches and private homes in the valley. Every one of their special days picturesque with mountain views, fresh air and surrounded by nature. In college, a professor ran a biology field trip in El Monte Valley where hundreds of plant species reside. It truly breaks my heart to think of what will happen to this sanctuary with constant drilling and trucks hauling aggregate, driving in and out of the valley, day in, day out, 12 hours a day for the next 15-20 years.

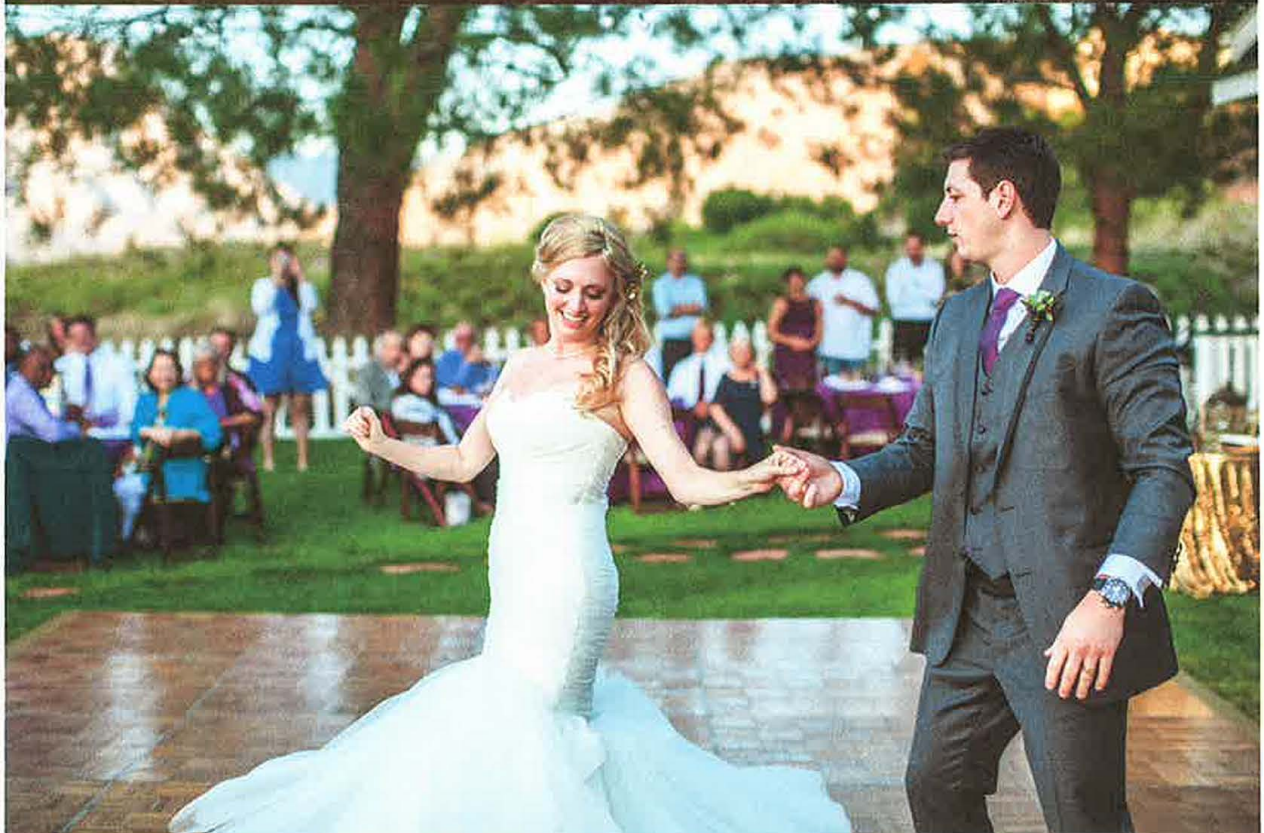
If this project proceeds, it will DESTROY the valley. There is an abundance of birds species, rabbits, lizards, bobcats, coyotes, insects, ranch and dairy animals, and FAMILIES that make their homes in this area. I want to know what happens to these hundreds of families who live here, those who have devoted a lifetime to improving their homes and surrounding property. Suddenly will they have no wells? No clean air to breathe because it is filled with the dust of sand mining? The noise of drilling filling every waking moment? What about what they would be exposing all the residents to when digging around in sand that surely must be full of fungus from the riverbed? What about the fact that people have spent their life's savings trying to own property here to get away from it all? What will happen to the dairy, the ranches, family businesses and park who provide for the community?

Please let my voice be heard.

Sincerely,
Samantha Atlas DiPirro-Beard

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha", written over the printed name.





EL MONTE SAND MINE AND NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

September 9, 2015

Attn: Jim Bennett

I am writing to express my concerns about the El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project. The name itself is extremely misleading. This is a proposal for a Sand Mine which will destroy, not preserve, the El Monte Valley.

I am a resident of Lakeside, not the El Monte Valley. We moved here in 1973 seeking a more rural lifestyle, where we could keep our horses on our property and have easy access to trails and open space. Today the El Monte Valley is the only remaining area of our community to have escaped housing development and runaway industrial use and abuse. The sandy alluvial riverbed of the San Diego River has long been eyed by the sand mining interests and by the powerful and well-funded construction industry which is well represented on Planning Boards throughout the county. The mining and construction interests argue that there is dire need for high quality sand and local sand would help reduce the costs and pollution caused by importing sand. This plan has been on the books for some time, (first thinly disguised as a plan for golf courses). They can acquire the land for a relatively low cost and after removing billions of dollars of sand over at least a 15 year period which will make them very rich to the detriment of the valley itself, the residents of the valley, the Lakeside area in general and the people of San Diego County. They plan to "restore" the valley in a way that nature never intended.

The proposed mining site is atop the Santee/El Monte Aquifer, the third largest aquifer in San Diego County. This aquifer formed thousands of years ago by water seeping through the sand which served to filter out impurities. Today, in a time of overpopulation, climate change, and cyclical drought, we need to preserve our precious groundwater. The sand mine proposal includes drilling additional wells, drawing on the aquifer to keep down dust. It would become the biggest water user in the valley. The wells of the valley's residents could go dry or become contaminated and unusable. The sand mine will create a huge, deep pit a hundred feet deep and involve 190 acres. Eventually, when sand mining is terminated 15 -20 years in the future, they propose to fill this cavity with mining waste and water to create an artificial lake. This would damage the purifying effect of the aquifer and open it to pollution. They plan to create an artificial environment and then reintroduce native wildlife and plants. The City of San Diego owns the water rights to this land and it remains to be seen what their position will be but one would hope they want to protect their groundwater interests.

In addition to the water, I am also concerned about the additional truck traffic that would be created. El Monte Road is a narrow, two lane road that has been designated a Scenic Corridor in the County's General Plan. The road leads past a dairy and several equestrian facilities as well as the County of San Diego owned El Monte Park. The road continues on to provide access to the El Capitan Reservoir. The two lane road is popular with cyclists, boaters hauling watercraft, and people trailering horses to ranches in the valley or recreational riding on trails. The truck traffic would interrupt the serene

atmosphere of the valley and present a safety hazard to travelers. El Monte Road empties onto Lake Jennings/Mapleview Road. This is already heavily traveled, especially since Highways 67 and 52 were connected. There is presently back up during the morning commute hours and it continues onto Highway 67 in both directions. In addition, the traffic would impact students arriving and leaving El Capitan High School. There are already many complaints about the long waits at the stoplights at Mapleview and Highway 67. In the mornings northbound traffic on 67 comes to a stop around Winter Gardens and in the afternoons, traffic begins to back up around 3:00 PM at Posthill Road and Highway 67. This causes many motorists to turn at Posthill and travel through residential Eucalyptus Hills, returning to the freeway at Riverford Road. The rest of the day there is a nonstop parade of construction equipment and gravel trucks traveling Highway 67. A through study needs to be done of travel conditions and CALTRANS should be asked what improvements, if any, are planned for the future.

Air quality in the Lakeside/Santee area is another concern. Sand mines are dusty neighbors. The dust created adds particulates to the air. Sand dust is abrasive and research indicates silicates can damage lung tissue. As a Lakeside resident, every automobile I have owned has had its paint damaged by sand so who knows what it has been doing to our lungs? Another very serious threat is Valley Fever which is caused by a microbe known to exist in El Monte sand. Many local residents have suffered the effects of Valley Fever. It sometimes causes death and is known to cause lifelong and recurring illness. This could endanger residents, sand miners, and it could be carried by sand hauled from the El Monte Valley. Additional research should be done before any decision is reached.

The people proposing the mine paint a picture of this part of the valley as a wasteland with very little biodiversity and this is absolutely not true. There is a wide diversity of plant and animal life here which would be destroyed or need to be relocated. The area is definitely in need of restoration, mainly because of previous sand mining efforts, most by the same group proposing the sand mine. There are invasive plants that need to be removed and holes that need to be filled. Much of the native habitat was bulldozed away and never restored even though the group was sued by Helix Water District for their failure to do so. Why should anyone trust this same group to ever follow through with their plan to restore the environment?

There is already a vision for the area. Lakeside's River Park Conservancy and the San Diego River Conservancy have hoped for many years to restore the San Diego River and establish a network of trails and parks from the headwaters to the ocean. The El Monte Valley is an essential part of this plan. This vision is now within reach if the land can be acquired from the Helix Water District. This beautiful area would be preserved for all to appreciate and enjoy and would involve no damage to the environment. Work could begin in the near future and would ensure the preservation of this priceless resource for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

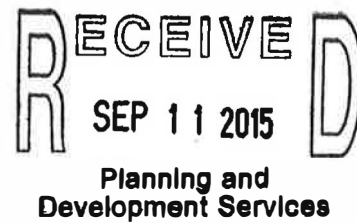
Sincerely,

Susan Muir Hanna Flynn

10437 Chase Creek Lane
Lakeside, CA 92040

September 8, 2015

Jim Bennett, Project Manager
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123



Reference: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015RP-15-
001,LOGNOPDS2015-ER-98-14-016D

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the potential impacts that would be associated with the subject projects. As a frequent traveler on El Monte Road, I am concerned about the traffic impacts. The proposed sand mining operation will create heavy traffic on the road with the large number of trucks going into and out of the project site itself. The road certainly was not built for that traffic. Driving there will be hazardous.

I visit regularly El Monte Park, where a handicapped person with a walker can exercise in a flat, shady natural setting. This beautiful jewel of a park provides a rare spot for such exercise. Please consider the impacts to the access and to the setting that would be associated with sand mining.

I also visit my daughter, who lives just off El Monte Road. All of these trips occur during daylight hours, when trucks would make travel difficult.

While I am sure you intend to prepare a traffic report with numbers and mitigation, please consider the users of this road and have a complete understanding of how the road is currently used, by whom, and what the impacts would be. Please consider the environmental impacts the

traffic and other disturbances associated with sand mining would cause to all users of the valley including:

*** children with special needs who attend therapy programs and may be especially sensitive to noise**

*** educational programs at the dairy bringing in bus loads of children**

*** elderly and children who visit El Monte Park**

*** boaters heading for the reservoir**

*** emergency equipment and workers in case of fire or flood, as this is their only service access**

*** bicyclists who pedal along the side of the road**

*** wildlife that cross the road**

Unless the uses of the road are fully understood, the impacts to these users cannot be appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy Wood". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

**Dorothy Wood
(dorothywood@msn.com)**

EL MONTE SAND MINE & NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

August 13, 2015 through September 14, 2015

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT SHEET

NOP Scoping Meeting August 26, 2015

Lakeside Community Center

9841 Vine Street

Lakeside, California 92040

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

Please See attachment

RECEIVED
SEP 11 2015

**Planning and
Development Services**

(Attach additional pages as needed)

Christy Walter
Signature

9/8/15
Date

Dr. Christy Walter
Print Name

MAIL or E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone#: (858) 694-3820
e-mail: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

9395 Harritt Rd Spc 61
Address

Lakeside CA 92040
City State Zip Code

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

El Monte Sand Mine & Nature Preserve

I am an Emergency Medicine physician who has lived in Lakeside since 2008. My husband and I board horses at a facility located off of El Monte Road. We are vehemently opposed to this project for several reasons. As a physician, my primary concern is for the health and well-being of the people and animals that will be adversely affected by the mining. In particular, I am concerned about contracting Valley Fever.

Valley fever, also called coccidioidomycosis, is an infection caused by the fungus *coccidioides*. It is endemic in the soil in the southwestern United States, most notably in California and Arizona. It lies dormant in the soil during dry spells, then develops as a mold with long filaments that break off into airborne spores. Spores can be swept into the air by disruption of the soil as seen during construction, farming, and sand mining. Once inhaled the spores convert to large spherules. As the spherules enlarge and rupture they release thousands of smaller endospores. People infected with the spores typically develop respiratory symptoms that resemble bronchitis or pneumonia including fatigue, fever, cough, headaches, rash, chest pain and muscle and joint pain. It is usually self-remitting, however, chronic and recurrent symptoms are an ever-present threat. Dissemination of the disease can occur via hematogenous spread. Dissemination can be rapid and fatal and can affect virtually any organ system in the body. Individuals with weakened immune systems, advanced age and pregnant women are particularly at risk for serious complications. This disease can also affect other mammals including cats, dogs, horses and cattle.

Coccidioidomycosis exists in the El Monte Valley. I can speak from personal experience. Our Italian greyhound dog, Arlo, contracted the spore while playing in the dirt. He woke up one morning with a mild cough. I brought him to the vet who thought it was probably "kennel cough." An x-ray obtained that morning was normal. By the next day Arlo's lung was whited out. He was deathly ill. He was in the hospital for over a week receiving aggressive treatment. This vet proposed removing his entire lung. We did not want to put him through that so we took him home. He was not expected to live. Fortunately, the vet had placed him on broad spectrum antibiotic and antifungal medication. Ten days after his symptoms developed the titers came back positive for Coccidioidomycosis. Four years later he still has severe coughing spells.

I have to wonder if the company proposing this project is aware or even cares about the threat to public health that excavating the sand will cause. Coccidiomycosis is but one threat. Other threats include West Nile Virus, heavy metal toxicity from contaminated well water, and the like. It would be a travesty for this project to move forward. This is just another example where big business and big money have been placed ahead of the lives of people. Is the mining company prepared to pay for the adverse consequences that are sure to happen?



Dr. Christy Walter

September 7, 2015

Jan and Glenn Stammen
9602 Nyler Court
Santee, CA 92071

Planning and Development Services
Attention: Jim Bennett
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123



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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR for the above referenced project. We visit El Monte Valley regularly and enjoy and value its natural beauty and contribution to wildlife.

During the preparation of the EIR, please make sure to fully address:

- the impact of permanent loss of agricultural potential of this rich alluvial Valley.
- greenhouse gases associated with aggregate mining and cement manufacture.
- issues associated with interruption of an important wildlife corridor.
- hazards associated with particulate emissions from a site known to contain Valley Fever and West Nile Virus which affect both humans and wildlife.
- impacts to bats and to raptors.
- impacts to soil organisms.
- impacts to the aquifer, wells, and habitat and wildlife dependent on the aquifer

Please examine these areas carefully before we lose more natural resources with decisions based solely on economics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jan & Glenn Stammen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jan and Glenn Stammen
janstammen@gmail.com
619-449-4529

September 11, 2015

El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve

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

Comments on the Notice of Preparation

Submitted by
Janis Shackelford
9716 Red Pony Lane
El Cajon, CA 92021

The boundaries of the Major Use Permit as presented in the published project description are not accurate. A new project description is required and may require new public noticing.

An entirely new EIR is required for the El Monte Sand Mine. "The Project" for which a previous EIR was approved was a golf course, with no streambed disturbance and balanced cut and fill (no export). The proposed project is a sand mine. The impacts of the two projects are very different, the footprint (area) of the two projects is very different, and the environmental impacts outside of the project area are very different. There are fifteen subject areas identified with NEW OR SUBSTANTIALLY MORE SEVERE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS compared to the golf course project. CEQA Guidelines section 15162 does not apply to the project since "the project" is totally different, therefore a Subsequent EIR is not appropriate. The previous draft EIR was released for public review in September 1998 with the technical studies dated earlier. It is not valid to rely on outdated technical studies for the very significant and different impacts that will be generated by the sand mine, nor is simply updating technical studies for a different project with new significant impacts adequate.

Provide a detailed technical analysis of the hydrology of El Monte Valley. Will the sand mine change hydrology in the valley and impact down stream water tables and surface waters. For example, Lindo Lake is well dependent. How far does the ground water aquifer originating in El Monte Valley extend? How will water use during extraction effect the ground water level? How will evaporation affect the water table? Will fluctuations in the water table impact existing vegetation both upstream and downstream of the project site which are dependent on ground water.

Hanson Pond: Reclamation is planned and will be completed for the Hanson Pond. How will the project affect both short-term and long-term water levels in the pond? How will phase 4 sand mining adjacent to the restored area affect the new habitat, and both plant and animal species that will be present? Will sand mining adjacent to Hanson Pond continue during nesting season? Include in the discussion noise, dust, and ground vibration impacts. The river floodway is currently north of Hanson Pond. How will stormwater flows exit the phased extraction areas and be directed back into the river channel? Extraction in the past for Hanson Pond was required to provide separation between the extraction pond and the river channel. Will that be required for the proposed project? How will noise, dust, and ground vibration from the "plant site" affect the new habitat and species at Hanson Pond. Will it impact restoration efforts in any way?

Rock crushing/import of materials. Rock and concrete importation for crushing and recycling is a permitted use when an extractive MUP is approved. However, the project description states "No batch plants or rock crushing are proposed for the project." How will (or can) the MUP be conditioned that a permitted use is not permitted? Somewhere under the layers of sand there may be remains of previous channelization efforts (rock rip-rap). How will the

Comments on the Notice of Preparation

project dispose of this material? Additional noise, dust, ground vibration impacts may occur if this use is permitted.

Drop structure effects on El Monte Valley hydrology. The proposed drop structure appears to be an underground dam structure across the floodplain. How will the drop structure affect the hydrology of the valley? Will there be effects on the water table and aquifer as the drop structure is gradually constructed? Is de-watering required? Where will water be moved to? What will be the effects if the drop structure fails during a 100-year flood event or when water spills from El Capitan Dam?

Loss of alluvial sand. Sand in El Monte Valley both stores and purifies stormwater entering the valley. How will removal of the sand affect water quality downstream? How will stormwater flows be affected with the loss of the retention effect of the sand?

Trails. Will the proposed trail easements along the north and south sides of the project area be constructed immediately or during the very early site preparation for Phase 1? How will the proposed trail easements connect to planned trails to the west around Hanson Pond? A north-south connection between the two road edge trails is needed at the east end of the extraction/reclamation area. This connection must be identified. If trails are not constructed during the beginning phase of the project, discuss impacts to the desired community character of the valley, impacts to existing businesses, and impacts to recreational uses in Lakeside.

Trails. Location of trails along the roadways does not contribute to enjoyment of the river environment. Additional trail easement alignments should be identified closer to the pond areas to be constructed as reclamation progresses. Blocking all public access to reclaimed areas of the project is not reasonable and will create impacts to recreation in the valley and to Lakeside businesses. The proponents claimed their trails would be similar to those in Walker Preserve in television interviews. It must be noted the Walker Preserve Trails are adjacent to the river channel, not set back along the roadways, on the outside of an eight foot high berm.

Project lifespan. Explain and clarify why there should be any expectation of the sand extraction phases to be completed in 15 years. There are numerous other sources of construction aggregate and sand in the Lakeside area as well as a new sand mine proposed for the north end of Moreno Valley (East County Sand Mine). Construction demand and potential for another economic downturn may definitely affect project timing. The project description on page 6 describes a prior project on the site and states "... a substantial reduction in the demand for PCC sand and the attendant value reduction, planning for this project was discontinued."

Valley Fever. The fungus causing Valley Fever, coccidioidomycosis, is endemic in El Monte Valley. Spores become airborne when the ground is disturbed. While watering of the ground may reduce dust creation, trucks carrying sand typically disperse dust as they travel at higher speeds on local roadways and the freeway. Discuss potential for valley fever exposure both in El Monte Valley and in the surrounding neighborhoods, and as sand is transported. Include evaluation of public health impacts to residents, to visitors to the valley who visit El Monte Park or El Capitan reservoir, and to users of the multi-purpose trail.

Comments on the Notice of Preparation

Water Pollution. Will pollution from sand mining equipment impact ground water quality in this ground water dependent area? How will loss of sand filtration in the pit area impact water quality? A statement at the Scoping Meeting August 24th indicated only wells within a one-half mile of the project site would be evaluated. Please justify that limited area, since the entire aquifer may be affected.

Prime Agricultural Land. Discuss the loss of prime agricultural land to the sand mine and reclamation plan.

Site re-vegetation. Will the eastern end of the project in the area east of the extraction pit, be restored? What is planned for that end of the project area? Merely restoring the former golf course pond areas are not consistent with the project's stated objectives. Are "wash fines", material not suitable for sale, sustainable soil material for the re-vegetation? What is the composition of the project's "wash fines"?

Reclamation The reclamation and re-vegetation described in the project description are minimal at best, and substandard compared to existing river re-vegetation programs. A much more robust restoration plan must be prepared.

Restoration of previous non-permitted mining activity. The prior golf course project exported material without permits and failed to restore the mined area. Why is the Golf Course project not being required to restore the site of the non-permitted grading? Why is previous non-permitted activity being mitigated by an unrelated new application?

El Monte Road. Will the project construct improvements to El Monte Road? There is a definite need for road widening to improve bicycle safety. Discuss safety for pedestrians, equestrians and bicyclists in the area where trucks enter and exit the project site.

Noise/Air quality. Evaluate noise impacts both within the valley and to residences on the ridgelines above. When will equipment repair occur? Will there be evening noise impacts after extraction ends for a day? Where will trucks be staged? Calculate quantity of idling and exhaust emissions that will be released in the valley. Will local air quality be impacted? What noise impacts will occur to residences along local roadways due to the addition of heavy truck traffic? Include evaluation of increased noise on Lake Jennings Park Road as trucks go up the grade. Will trucks coming down the grade be permitted to use compression braking? What will be the impact of particulate emissions in the constrained area of El Monte Valley? Is a cumulative impact study required? What is the existing air quality in the valley relative to particulates? Modeling is not adequate to address this question. How big a fleet of vehicles is required for the mining operations? What is the expected turn-around time for a typical delivery?

Comments on the Notice of Preparation

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Show compliance with San Diego County Air Pollution District Rule 52 and Rule 55. Both rules apply to the proposed project.

Provide a local air quality assessment of the project's emissions, taking into consideration the topography of El Monte Valley.

Evaluate wind erosion of stockpiles under Santa Anna weather events and winter storm events as the valley's topography affects wind velocities.

Evaluate air quality impacts for both dust, particulates, and greenhouse gas emissions in the local haul routes through the Lakeside area.

Provide a cumulative impact analysis to air quality including construction projects and other existing uses (extractive, composting, agricultural, industrial) that contribute to local air quality in Lakeside.

The San Diego Air Pollution Control District must review the proposed project's Air Quality Assessment for completeness, accuracy, and compliance with all regional regulations.

The San Diego Air Pollution Control District must provide a health risk assessment for the proposed project and from cumulative air quality impacts.

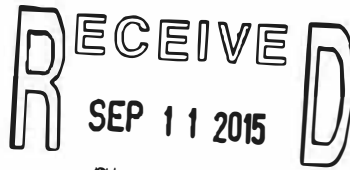
Questions and Clarifications needed.

Project description, page 14, phase 1: " A slurry pipeline will be used to transport wash fines further east if needed.. " Does this mean wash fines will be dumped in the eastern portion of the major use project site, outside of the extraction area? When will this area reclaimed? Where will top soil and overburden be stored on the site?

The project description modifies the project name/description to the "El Monte Nature Preserve Mine". This is first and foremost an extraction project and the modified name obscures its nature. Consistency in the project name is required.

Possible Project alternatives:

1. No project alternative
2. Golf course alternative- approval already exists.
3. Restoration and re-vegetation of the project area without all the impacts associated with the proposed sand mine.



9/1/2015

Planning and Development Services
Reference

Planning and
Development Services

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

Jim Bennett

5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92123

Mr. Jim Bennett,

I'm concerned about my organic grapes growing next to proposed sand mine. Under the USDA Organic Regulations §205.202 Land requirements (c) it states: Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.

Will there be any prohibited substance under USDA Organic Regulations applied to the sand mine property adjoining my property?

Please send confirmation of receipt, thank you.

Sincerely,

Lucille D Foster
14806 El Monte Rd
Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 561-1578

September 11, 2015

SUBJECT: Public Comment for El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve (PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO> PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B)

FROM: Ray and Anna Ellis, Property OWNERS @15725 Miss Ellie Lane Lakeside, CA 92040

TO: Board Of Supervisors

In regard to the proposed sand mine being proposed by Land Leases' on Helix Water District property in the El Monte Valley, we would like to go on record as being against this project for the following reasons:

- a) **Silica Dust Exposure-** because sand must be mined and loaded to be removed, these actions will create silica dust above safe levels of exposure published by the CDC. Silica Dust is a known Carcinogen (visit link below for additional information). Long term exposure to residents living in "the hot zone" of this project must be eliminated in order to avoid legal action by the El Monte Valley residents.
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/awards/hamilton/pdfs/crystal-silica.pdf>
- b) **Coccidioidomycosis:** Valley Fever spores have been detected in the soil across the proposed mining site. By removing and transporting the product the risk of spreading valley fever must be avoided.
- c) **Increased Traffic / Roadway Maintenance Cost-** We request quantification of the projected traffic increase and additional costs to county budget to maintain the roadways that will be utilized by the project; Included roadways are:
 - a. Willow Road
 - b. El Monte Road
 - c. Mapleview Street
 - d. Lake Jennings Parkway
 - e. State Highway 67
 - f. Vigilante Road,
 - g. Slaughterhouse Canyon Road
- d) **Blight-** Open Pit Mining is known to destroy appealing views which can be tied to lower property values. We request visual simulations of the project be prepared and provided prior to the CEQA EIR and during the CEQA NOP scoping period that visual analysis be included following the BLM's visual resource management system to allow the BOS's

and the public to fully understand how the project would alter the scenic values of the area in a vetted manner.

- e) **Questionable Zoning-** Zoning for this area was changed in 1979 to allow for mineral extraction. This change was made illegally by the BOS without the proper public comment period.
- f) **Budget Requirements-** We request a Full Economic Impact Report be prepared to outline project cost to county residents. We request this Economic Report include the following:
 - a. Full Cost Analysis of the Environmental Mitigation Measures
 - b. Taxed Based Income to the County
 - c. Employment of Local Residents
 - d. Potential Cost of a BOS's elected position
- g) **Conservation-**The project area lies within the Golden Eagle Forage area as outlined by the U. S. Department of Interior. The El Monte Valley is home to sets of Nesting Golden Eagles and we feel the project could disrupt or cause relocation of these Eagles. There are also several species listed in the Multiple Species Conservation Plan of San Diego County that could be impacted by the project.
- h) **Restoration-**The project is being portrayed as an environmentally friendly restoration of the river valley to its original state. If the project is approved we request an escrow account be established and all profits be deposited to cover the entire cost of restoration before the owner/builder can seek profit.

And finally, as property owners we are allowed to freely use 2 acres of a nine acre parcel. The remaining seven acres are deemed "Open Space" by the county of San Diego. As property owners and tax payers we find it appalling that this project would even be considered due to its size and the fact that the project owners are not land owners within the El Monte Valley.

We request these comments be entered into the public record.

Thank You



Ray Ellis & Anna Ellis

15725 Miss Ellie Lane

Lakeside, CA 92040

Planning and Development Services

9/1/2015

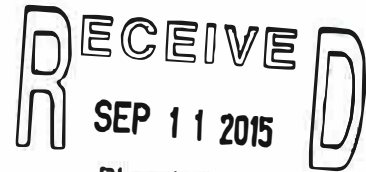
Reference

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

Attention: Jim Bennett

5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92123



Dear Mr. Bennett,

I have several environmental issues that need to be considered for the upcoming EIR for the El Monte Sand Mining And Nature Preserve.

Inversions, short morning type and the prolonged all day inversions can lead to high levels of fine particulate pollution, or PM2.5. These high pollutant levels raise significant health and air quality concerns. Here in the El Monte Valley we have Radiation inversions, Advection inversions, Regional Subsidence inversions and Large-Scale Subsidence inversions. When a temperature inversion occurs, it will trap the pollutants against the mountain slopes. Already the valley suffers from incoming pollutants from the populated coastal plain plus the sand mine activity (if permitted). Everybody suffers especially the young and the elderly.

Also, there is concern with the summertime ground-level ozone. Which will form after the sand mine trucks and equipment release reactive gases and unburned hydrocarbons. These pollutants cook in heat and sunlight to form ozone, a corrosive gas. Breathing ozone can harm children's lungs, trigger respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis, worsen heart and lung disease and a risk of premature deaths increases.

The pollution also affects the view. Airborne particles are a primary component of mining operations and will obscure visibility in the scenic valley.

I'm concerned with the prevalence of arsenic, lead, cadmium, nickel, mercury and copper from the Julian-Banner mining districts. The mining district is part of the upper San Diego River drainage and may have deposited heavy metal contaminants in the sand of proposed sand mine. Several serious health problems can follow, including cardiovascular and neurological disorders as well as kidney and liver damage.

Noise from sand mining activities in the El Monte Valley will be amplified. Any noise reverberates across the valley side to side. I can hear someone weed whacking a ¼ of a mile away. An adequate setback will be needed between noise-related activities associated with extractive uses to protect sensitive residential land from noise that exceeds the allowable limits of the County Noise Ordinance. Generally a 1300' set back is adequate, but in this valley with the narrow corridor giving a severe "echo effect", 1300' will not be enough.

Please send confirmation of receipt, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Foster", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rob Foster
14806 El Monte Rd
Lakeside, CA 92040

Attention: Jim Bennett

Date: 9.12.15

Jim.Bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92123

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

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am submitting my input and concerns about the scope of the Environmental Impact from the El Monte Sand Mining Project. I ask that my concerns be thoroughly considered in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

The El Monte Sand mining project will negatively impact the following;

Aesthetic Resources

1. This Project will negatively impact both Willow Rd. and El Monte Rd, as both are designated scenic roads. What happens to these designations?
2. What can the proposed project do to prevent the loss of these designations?
3. What can the county do to protect these designations?
4. What can the proposed project do to screen the visibility of the sand mine from the surrounding community?

Agricultural Resources

1. This can affect the Dairy ranch at the end of Willow, affecting the water table; the dust generated during the operation, Valley Fever is deadly for both Dogs, Horses. What is the effect on the Dairy Cattle?
 - a. If the Dairy cattle are affected, what will the county do?
2. As thousands of children visit this dairy ranch as an Agricultural Resource, this proposed project could negatively impact both the ranch and the visiting children. To what effect is too much?

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

1. Truck traffic leaving the proposed project? The volume of trucks will add noise, Gh gas emissions, etc.
2. Heavy equipment and processing equipment, what will be their gas emissions? How much will the heavy equipment reduce air quality and produce how much GH gas emissions?

Biological Resources

1. Have all federally protected Wildlife species been identified in the valley? Per the Aug. 26 meeting, at least five species that are federally protected have not been accounted for, but it is stated that those species are in the valley, who is accounting for those missing species?
 - a. How will this federally protected wildlife be protected?
 - b. By Federal Law, these species cannot be disturbed and won't this proposed project do just that?
 - c. How will the county identify and report all the federally protected Wildlife for this scope?
2. The valley is slated as in destruction phase, who made that determination and on what basis and guidelines? What proof is offer that states the valley is in a destruction phase?
3. Will the supplemental EIR take into account the West-East habitat corridor? What happens with that corridor?
4. Are there not multiple habitat corridors, North / South, East/West, the proposed project will definitely interfere with the East/West corridor, what will be done to resolve that while the sand mine is in operation?
5. What happens to the animal species in El Monte Valley: Golden Eagles, Horned Lizards, Least Bell's Vireos (endangered and threaten), deer, bobcat, Loggerhead Shrike, red headed woodpeckers, nuthatch, coyotes, Quail, Great Horned Owls, Hummingbirds, Raptors (Hawks), wrens, Spotted Towhee's, Horned Toad, skinks, Gray fox, Doves, Bats, and the Glossy Snake, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, cooper's hawk, turkey vulture, barn owl, western screech-owl, white-tailed kite, western bluebird, acorn woodpeckers, common poorwill, coastal California gnatcatchers, rufous-crowned sparrow, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, orange-throated whiptail, and the coastal rosy boa?
 - a. How will these species be monitored during this proposed project if the wildlife corridors are wiped out?
 - b. How will these species be protected during this proposed sand mining?
 - c. As the Least Bell's Vireos is on the endangered and threaten list, this proposed sand mine further threatens this species by destroying its territory in El Monte Valley.
 - d. The California Glossy Snake cannot be removed from its territory, and the sand mine is invading its territory.

Cultural Resources:

1. Has a qualified archaeologist researched El Monte valley for Native American historical sites?
 - a. Is this going to be done and if not planned, shouldn't this be done?

Geology and Soils:

Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

1. There is a Hazardous Materials Dump/station in El Monte Valley, how is this affected by this proposed project?
2. What guidelines will be in place with the proposed sand mine and the Hazardous materials Dump
 - a. How will the Hazardous Materials Dump be protected?
3. Best Practices to contain Valley Fever is water and we are in a drought. Yet, Valley Fever is not contained with Best Practices, so wildlife, livestock, family pets, and most important, people can contract Valley Fever once it is in the air and either die or become seriously ill.
 - a. Once a person contracts Valley Fever, and if they become seriously ill, those patients are on medicine for the rest of their life. What is the County response to this?
 - b. As the cases of Valley Fever occur with the residents, how will these cases of Valley fever be monitored, reported and dealt with?
 - c. What happens if there are deaths from Valley Fever? What actions are taken then by the county?
 - d. Once cases of Valley Fever occur, what actions will the County take?
 - e. How much water will be used in this Best Practices for handling Valley Fever? What actions can we expect from the county when this practice fails and Valley Fever strikes people and animals?
 - i. Who will be monitoring the water usage for this best practice to contain Valley Fever?
 - ii. What happens to this practice if the water table drops affecting wells, septic systems, etc.?
 - f. How will the cases of Valley Fever affecting livestock and pets be monitored, reported, and dealt with? What actions can we expect from the county to prevent further spread and damage? It would be best if Valley Fever was not released in El Monte Valley to begin with.
4. How will the employees of this proposed project to be protected from Valley Fever? How will those cases be monitored, reported and dealt with?
5. With the water ponds in use, proposed, how will West Niles Virus be dealt with, monitored, contained? The County reports over 46 birds dead to West Niles this year alone, so how will this proposed project add to the spread of West Niles?
 - a. West Niles virus is deadly to horses. What will be the county's response and actions should an outbreak of West Niles occur during this operation of the sand mining?
 - b. How will the county monitor for West Niles?

Hydrology and Water Quality: Please investigate the impacts of the following:

1. This Proposed project will have to dig new wells to provide water? Please confirm?
 - a. How many wells will this sand mine project install?
 - b. Will these wells be tested, monitored, and results reported to the public?

2. Once sand extraction activities extend below the water table, please specify everything that will happen to this water table once the extraction goes below this table. What happens to its water level of this 3rd largest aquifer/water table in San Diego county? How does this affect the quality of the water?
3. If the water table drops with this proposed project, thus dropping the production of surrounding wells, what specific steps are taken then to prevent further loss of water?
4. How will the quality of the water be monitored and how often?
5. If the water table becomes contaminated and/or wells, what steps are taken to prevent further contamination and to repair the water supply damaged?
6. How is the underground water dam of the aquifer affected? What happens to this dam? If damaged, what will be done to repair it?
7. To protect the quality of the water, What method, studies, resources, and experts are used to inspect and assure the water quality is not affected?
8. How are the wells in the valley affected?
 - a. Can the wells go dry or drop their production of water?
 - b. If the county only test wells within a ½ mile distance of the sand mine, does the county expand the tests beyond the ½ mile radius if negative results are found? What steps are then taken?
 - c. Shouldn't all wells be tested within the valley especially if the extraction extends below the water table? What about the Wells downstream?
9. How does this affect the septic systems in the valley? What tests are performed?
10. 132-acre feet of required water and ponds are needed for annual production (dust control, outgoing loads, and production equipment) of the proposed sand mine while the state and county is in a DROUGHT:
 - a. How can a resource as water already in short supply be justified to be wasted in such large quantities for a project?
11. Within this proposed sand mine, how is this water to be REPLACED as water of the U.S. a sensitive resource?
 - a. How is water taken for this project to be replaced to the groundwater table in a Drought?
12. Depleting the water table/aquafer with onsite wells in the proposed sand mine in such a volume will affect the water table thus the established wells, the habitat with its wildlife, the trees such as Mature Coast Live Oaks, California Sycamores, and Western cottonwood trees?
13. How is water at the Diary at the end of El Monte Valley affected?
14. What is the risk of Nitrates in the El Monte groundwater with mining production?
15. Will the county be monitoring for cases of Blue Babies, should high nitrates appear in the water table?
16. How does the proposed Sand Mine to work with the 404 Clean Water Act?
17. How is the Hazard Waste Dump in El Monte Valley affected by the mining productions?
18. SDSU in 2009 produce a study of the Impacts of Sand Mining, has the County referred to this study at all?

Land Use Planning

1. This Valley is considered a scenic corridor and it provides wildlife corridors.
2. This Valley has a large network of looping and interconnecting trails for equestrians, hikers, and dog walkers.
3. While Helix Water owned this property for the proposed sand mine, Helix Water always provided Horse gates so the equestrians could ride the river bottom. Helix provided the door access to the river bottom, so if access was provided, thus permission to ride the river bottom, therefore there was no trespassing from equestrians.
4. I am the equestrian who contacted Turko files for help for equestrians trying to cross Ashwood to the River Bottom long ag. Based on that Turko Files TV segment, Helix Water and the County joined together and the equestrian crosswalk with signal lights was installed. Helix aligned the horse gates on both sides of Ashwood to improve safety of equestrians. The Turko files did a follow up segment on this event. It was a community effort by Helix, the county, and the equestrians for safe access to the river bottom from Ashwood and Pillsbury ranch.
5. There is a Pumpkin patch opened every fall off El Monte road to the public and school students.
6. Basically, everything mention above is impacted by this proposed Sand mine. Access to trails will be impacted, wildlife impacted, exposure to Valley Fever and West Niles puts the public, the Residents, the Dairy Cattle Ranch, and livestock at risk.

Mineral Resources:

As there are already sand mines in place at both ends of Moreno Road, along 67 before Vigilante Road and 67 in Santee, Why is there a need for yet another sand mine? Only this proposed project will destroy a valley, wildlife habitat, a scenic corridor, and threaten San Diego's 3rd largest aquifer.

Noise: The proposed sand mine will be in production six days a week, along with truck traffic, there will be extensive noise.

1. How will the noise level be monitored and controlled?
2. What are the standards for the noise levels?
3. What are the limits? What happens if the limits are exceeded? What will be done then?
4. What actions can we expect from the county to protect the area, community, residents from the noise of this proposed sand mine?
5. What are the specific actions and fines to be executed by the county?
6. What recourse does the community and residents have?
7. How much will this noise impact the high school on Ashwood?

Recreation:

1. With this proposed project, the recreation will be greatly disturbed with the noise, dust, fear and risk of Valley Fever exposure, and West Niles exposure.
 - a. This will discouraged hikers, dog walkers, bird and habitat watchers, and equestrians.
2. Recreation will also be disturbed with the extreme traffic of heavy trucks that will affect Ashwood, El Monte Rd, Mapleview, Willow, and 67. El Capitan High School has its athletics teams run on Willow, Ashwood, and Mapleview.
 - a. Equestrians will have further issues trying to cross Ashwood to ride in the river bottom.
How is that to be addressed?
3. Recreation will be affected by noise as well six days a week.
4. This proposed project will only be quiet on Sundays, and affecting Saturday recreation users.

Transportation/traffic:

1. How will the truck traffic from the sand mining merge with both the High School and Casino traffic on Ashwood? A large volume of traffic is for the Barona Casino, affecting Willow, Ashwood, and Mapleview. What does the county plan to do about this?
2. How will the truck traffic affect the road conditions in the entire area, on Ashwood, El Monte Rd., Mapleview, Willow, and Highway 67? What happens to the infrastructure of the roads subjected to the massive truck traffic proposed in this project?
3. Along with the volume of trucks from the mining, affecting high school students walking to high school, equestrian traffic on Ashwood trying to cross Ashwood to ride trails.
4. The noise the truck traffic will make along with emissions? How will that be monitor and addressed if levels are exceeded?
5. The additional traffic on El Monte Rd. will affect Bike Riders and runners.
6. What is Caltrans and CA Highway patrol input on the impact of traffic and road infrastructure on Willow, El Monte road, Ashwood, Mapleview, and Hwy 67?
7. What is the evaluation of the proposed truck traffic from the mining affecting El Capitan High School on Ashwood? What will be done to protect students?

Submitted by,

Cynthia Denny
10421 Gretler Place
La Mesa, CA 91941
619.335.7018 cell
619.441.9277 home
cadtnt82@gmail.com
cd57sd46@cox.net

Sept. 12, 2015

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: El Monte & Nature Preserve Sand Mining Objections

-----Original Message-----

From: Adam Jaffe [mailto:aejaffe@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 2:19 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: Niran Bahjat-Abbas
Subject: El Monte & Nature Preserve Sand Mining Objections

Mr. Bennett,

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed Sand Mining
- PDS2015-MUP98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001.

The proposed project will cause irreparable harm to the environment and remediation or mitigation is not possible in this case.

Note that the miners will promise they will do everything "by the book," but just take a look at what they did in Wisconsin!

Nearly a fifth of Wisconsin's 70 active frac sand mines and processing plants were cited for environmental violations last year, as the industry continued to expand.

Violations included air pollution, construction without permits, and an accident at the Preferred Sands mine in Trempealeau County where a mudslide during a heavy rainstorm damaged a neighboring property.

In addition, the state Department of Natural Resources wrote letters of noncompliance — warnings to fix a problem before it becomes serious enough to merit a notice of violation — at numerous facilities.

Among the obvious objections are:

1. Quality of life for San Diego County citizens will be greatly diminished by a variety of nuisances - such as noise pollution, air pollution and certain water contamination. The volume of trucks and work being done will create a "hell on Earth" for Lakeside residents.
Fine partials of sand in the air for everyone to breath is a recipe for medical issues for all down the road.

Let's not turn Brenda Tabor-Adams' story into a San Diego story:

Small business owner, Brenda Tabor-Adams, lives with her husband and 2-year-old son in a silica frac sand mining district between New Auburn and Chetek, WI. They are surrounded by mines. Two separate facilities are within a third of a mile and three more are within one mile of her once-quiet, rural property. In addition, several more mines are proposed or already operating nearby. Brenda's clients now compete with 1,000 sand trucks per day, or 20 trucks every 15 minutes, in order to get their horse trailers in and out of her property. With trucks running for 12 hours/day, 6 days/week, her life has been turned upside down. Dismissed as "collateral damage" by local officials, she fears for the environmental impact, the health of her family and neighbors and the sustainability of her small business. Tabor-Adams

also details troubling issues that regular people face when dealing with multimillion dollar mining companies, including lawyers threatening lawsuits, town and county boards “stacked” with pro-sand officials, and the understaffing and underfunding of the Department of Natural Resources tasked to protect the land and the people. Brenda says, “Our government has failed us miserably...”

2. The unmitigated environmental disaster caused by the sand mining will result in the destruction of valuable habits for endangered species and other animals and will result in countless deaths

Impacts of sand mining can be broadly clasified into three categories:

Physical

The large-scale extraction of streambed materials, mining and dredging below the existing streambed, and the alteration of channel-bed form and shape leads to several impacts such as erosion of channel bed and banks, increase in channel slope, and change in channel morphology.

These impacts may cause: (1) the undercutting and collapse of river banks, (2) the loss of adjacent land and/or structures, (3) upstream erosion as a result of an increase in channel slope and changes in flow velocity, and (4) downstream erosion due to increased carrying capacity of the stream, downstream changes in patterns of deposition, and changes in channel bed and habitat type.

Water Quality

Mining and dredging activities, poorly planned stockpiling and uncontrolled dumping of overburden, and chemical/fuel spills will cause reduced water quality for downstream users, increased cost for downstream water treatment plants and poisoning of aquatic life.

Ecological

Mining which leads to the removal of channel substrate, resuspension of streambed sediment, clearance of vegetation, and stockpiling on the streambed, will have ecological impacts. These impacts may have an effect on the direct loss of stream reserve habitat, disturbances of species attached to streambed deposits, reduced light penetration, reduced primary production, and reduced feeding opportunities.

3. Property values of homes/ranches near the site are nearly guaranteed to drop, causing substantial economic hardship on home owners in favor of "Big Business."

Example:

In Pepin County, the Great River Road National Scenic Byway overlooks Lake Pepin, a wide spot in the Mississippi River, and passes through picturesque communities on its way south.

“The quality of life and everyone’s property value depends on protecting the beauty down here,” county Supervisor Bill Mavity said.

“That’s what makes this place go.”

After a frac sand processing plant with a rail and barge loading facility was proposed along Lake Pepin, a civic group commissioned one of the few Wisconsin studies examining frac sand’s potential effects on tourism and property values in the area.

Phaneuf and a fellow economist, Dominic Parker at UW-Madison, looked at the effects of traffic congestion, noise and degraded air quality on property values.

The study did not use Pepin County data because of limited funding, so the results were not definitive. But it predicted that frac sand operations and transport could “significantly impair property values.”

Last June, the Pepin County Board passed an ordinance banning frac sand mining, processing and transport facilities along the Great River Road. The ordinance cited potential drops in property values as a reason.

Thank you for your consideration,

Adam E. Jaffe, Esq.
4653 Corte Mar De Corazon
San Diego, CA 92130

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: el monte sand mining project

From: lmnak@aol.com [<mailto:lmnak@aol.com>]

Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 9:10 PM

To: Bennett, Jim

Subject: el monte sand mining project

This input is regarding the El Monte Sand Mining Project , Reference PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B. I am against the project. Many other people I know are against the project too, and most of them are using the same key talking points, such as causing air pollution, valley fever, endangering wildlife, and drawing down the water table during a severe drought. But another thing to consider is that the El Monte Valley is classified as part of the San Diego River Flood Corridor. What will happen when there is a 10, 20, or 100 year flood ? Without all the water absorbing sand, the flood waters will be channeled downstream at a faster rate. Then the property owners, the county and the state will be on the hook for the damages caused by the sand mining operation, especially if it doesn't flood while the company is operating. The state of California thinks it is important because it gave an adjacent property (HEMP) \$3.22 million from Prop 84 Flood Corridor Program. This is for flood control, restoration and water recharge. So please take all these things into consideration when deciding to approve this project. A huge operation like this has no place in a small rural valley that El Monte is . Thank you.

Bruce Nakashima
8871 Lemon Ave
La Mesa, Ca 91941

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Sand mining in El Monte

From: Carol Mayfield [<mailto:caroljmayfield@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 8:42 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: Sand mining in El Monte

Please stop the sand mining in El Monte Park! No mining please!

Carol Mayfield

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Sand mining

From: Carol Mayfield [<mailto:caroljmayfield@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 8:44 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: Sand mining

Please stop the sand mining in El Monte Valley!

Carol Mayfield
1688 Caminito Asterisco
La Jolla, Ca
92037

September 13, 2015

Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Via Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

Re: El Monte Preserve Sand Mine -PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2 – Scoping Comments

Mr. Hingtgen,

Here is a list of things that I would like to be evaluated in the Draft EIR for this project.

Charlene Ayers
10801 Dewitt Court
El Cajon, CA 92020
619-442-8046

Scoping Comments

Air Quality

Will the impact of the emissions from haul-trucks waiting in a queue to make the left turn into the project, and at the intersection of Lake Jennings Park Road and El Monte Road be analyzed in this report?

Will locations where heavy traffic could cause elevated carbon monoxide concentration, e.g., intersections, road segments, or parking areas be analyzed in this report?

Wildland Fire Hazard

Will this project impair implementation of, or physically interfere with an emergency evacuation?
Will this project expose people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury or death involving a wildland fire?

What is this project's proximity to areas subject to a wildland fire hazard or areas designated on local plans as severe or high risk hazard?

What is the extent to which the construction could interfere with emergency response times?

Proper Maintenance of Trucks and Equipment and CARB's 5 minute idling rule

How will it be determined that the haul-trucks and construction equipment are properly maintained to the expected standard? How will that be monitored throughout the project?

How will CARB's 5-minute diesel idling rule be monitored and enforced?

Mineral Resources

Blossom Valley Subdivision- Is boundary of this subdivision which is closest to the published MRZ2 zone for this project within the 1300' location limit which would make this resource unavailable?

Are there any other residential subdivisions which encroach on the MRZ2 zone to be used by this project?

Public Services - Fire Protection

There is no published emergency evacuation plan.

El Monte Valley appears to have only one primary two-lane access road which is El Monte Road. Willow Road, is a secondary access road by default. It is a dead-end dirt road in the El Monte Valley which can only be accessed from El Monte Road by cutting through private property.

There is no secondary access road for this project which the fire code requires.

In addition, the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink transmission towers, inhibit and/or prohibit aerial support for fighting fires in the El Monte Valley.

How will people be evacuated from this valley in a wildland fire which most often originates in the East?

How will queues of haul trucks and their trailers waiting on El Monte Road affect an emergency evacuation?

Will the Sheriffs' Department and CHP be consulted on the emergency evacuation plan for El Monte Valley?

Utilities, Energy, and Service Systems

What will be the effect/impact of this project on existing wells and septic systems?

Will a current baseline level for existing wells in the vicinity be established?

Will the ground water level be monitored as the project proceeds?

If the groundwater drops below a specific level will the project be halted?

If there are not sufficient water supplies will the project be halted?

Transportation/Traffic

How will the queuing of haul-trucks and their trailers affect the traffic flow on El Monte Road? The left turn lane looks to be about 150' and one truck plus trailer looks to be about 67' long. That makes two trucks tightly fitted within the left turn lane with any others in line blocking the regular lane of traffic. A similar scenario can be anticipated at the Lake Jennings Park and El Monte Road intersection.

There will be 461 ADTs. The company providing the trucks, West Coast Sand & Gravel, is sited on Hwy 67. What is the exact route(s) they will be using to access the project site? Will the project be held to their identification of those routes? What is the cumulative effect of those identified routes on other projects? What is the effect of this project on the LOS levels of those routes?

Will these impacts result in inadequate emergency access?

Cumulative Impacts – Evaluate Past, Present, and Probable Future Projects

East County Sand Mine - PDS2009-3300-09-016

Hanson Pond – PDS2014-LDGRMJ-00012

Lakeside/East County Equestrian Center at corner of Willow Road and Moreno Avenue

OCI Solar Farm – PDS2014- MUP 14-044

El Monte Park

Any other projects and/or activities in the vicinity. past, present, or probable.

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: EL MONTE SAND MINING AND NATURE PRESERVE; PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

From: Julie Murphy [mailto:ca_barrelracer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 12:36 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: EL MONTE SAND MINING AND NATURE PRESERVE; PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

The potential Sand Mine in El Monte Valley is going to use as much water as a whole city it will drain water wells that exists in the Valley, with the potential of also leaving Lakeside and Santee's water resources diminished!

The Santee/El Monte Basin aquifer is an unadjudicated groundwater basin in San Diego County, California surrounding and underneath the San Diego River. Water rights in the aquifer are subject to the City of San Diego's water rights to the surface water and groundwater that is underground flow of the San Diego River. As an unadjudicated basin, the water use in the aquifer is not under court control; however, Padre Dam must still follow existing court decisions regarding water rights.

Water rights law and water allocation procedures in California have evolved from more than two centuries of common law, legislative action, policy, and court decisions [4]. The key water rights doctrine that governs allocation of surface and ground water of the San Diego River is pueblo water rights. Pueblo water rights are derived from laws that were in effect in California during the time Spain and Mexico maintained jurisdiction, and were transferred to the City of San Diego when San Diego was chartered as a city. San Diego's pueblo water rights are recognized by the California Supreme Court in the case City of San Diego v. Cuyamaca Water District [5]. The court held that the City of San Diego was the successor to the original pueblo water rights granted by Mexico to the pueblo of San Diego, and that as a result: "The City of San Diego was at the time of the commencement of this action and now is the owner in fee simple of the prior and paramount right to the use of all the water (surface and underground), of the San Diego River, including its tributaries, from its source to its mouth, for the use of said City of San Diego and of its inhabitants...". 209 Cal. at 151. Therefore, the pueblo water right extends to the entire San Diego River as well as its tributaries, and includes both the surface flow and the subsurface flow of the river.

When analyzing the potential for infiltrating and reextracting water in a basin subject to pueblo water rights, other water rights must also be addressed.

Please carefully address this huge issue of water.

Thank You,
Julie Murphy
10632 Valle Vista RD.
Lakeside, CA. 92040

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Planning and Development Services Reference: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

-----Original Message-----

From: Lanora Cox [\[mailto:lanoras@gmail.com\]](mailto:lanoras@gmail.com)

Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 2:59 PM

To: Bennett, Jim

Cc: Horn, Bill; Roberts, Dave; diane.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov; Cox, Greg; Roberts, Ron; Fitzpatrick, Lisa

Subject: Planning and Development Services Reference: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

Planning and Development Services Reference: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

I am writing to express my opposition to the El Monte Valley Strip Sand Mining Project.

I travel from Northern California to the El Monte Valley put to six times a year to enjoy this unique land just the way it is.

Please support me and the entire San Diego community by objecting to, and saying "NO" to the El Monte Valley Nature Preserve LLC strip sand mining project.

Lanora Cox
1731 Alabama St.
Vallejo, CA 94590

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: El Monte Valley sand Mining proposal

-----Original Message-----

From: lmnak@cox.net [mailto:lmnak@cox.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: El Monte Valley sand Mining proposal

Mr. Bennett,

El Monte Sand Mining Project will negatively impact not only the existing valley, its wild life, third largest water aqueduct in the county, vegetation, air quality, traffic concerns, county visitors to nearby recreation sites and reservoirs, surrounding neighbors and their sole underground water source but also includes the threat of valley fever to citizens of neighboring residential areas as well as the entire equestrian community of Lakeside Ca.!

NO To Sand Mining.....Thank You,
Marie Nakashima

From: [Maureen Hanley](#)
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#); [Bennett, Jim](#)
Subject: Sand Mining in the El Monte Valley
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2015 8:36:38 AM

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR for the above referenced project. I have been to El Monte Valley many times and am aware that this project may have many environmental impacts. During the preparation of the EIR, please make sure to fully address:

- visual impacts to a scenic valley that is a popular recreational destination.
- the impact of permanent loss of agricultural potential of this rich alluvial Valley.
- greenhouses gases associated with aggregate mining and cement manufacture.
- issues associated with interruption of an important wildlife corridor.
- hazards associated with particulate emissions from a site known to contain Valley Fever, and also hazardous to wildlife, domestic stock, bird life and humans associated with West Nile Virus.
- impacts to bats and to raptors.
- impacts to soil organisms.
- impacts to the aquifer, wells, and habitat and wildlife dependent on the aquifer.

The valley is one I treasure for recreation as it recharges my soul...please take this into vital consideration.

Sincerely,

Maureen Hanley
expat and living at
13 Crestmont Circle
Presque Isle, Maine 04769

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: EIR El Monte Valley

From: Pamela Noxon [<mailto:pamelaannnoxon@icloud.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 12:35 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: EIR El Monte Valley

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR for the above referenced project. I have been to El Monte Valley and am aware that this project may have many environmental impacts. During the preparation of the EIR, please make sure to fully address:

- visual impacts to a scenic valley that is a popular recreational destination.
- the impact of permanent loss of agricultural potential of this rich alluvial Valley.
- greenhouses gases associated with aggregate mining and cement manufacture.
- issues associated with interruption of an important wildlife corridor.
- hazards associated with particulate emissions from a site known to contain Valley Fever, and also hazardous to wildlife, domestic stock, bird life and humans associated with West Nile Virus.
- impacts to bats and to raptors.
- impacts to soil organisms.
- impacts to the aquifer, wells, and habitat and wildlife dependant on the aquifer.

Sincerely,

Pamela Ann Noxon, CEO Love Your Show, Inc.

760-635-1120

Sent from my iPad

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: No on EL Monte sand mining!!

From: Penny Longthorne [mailto:pennylongthorne_fitnessstoday@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 3:20 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: robinpawl@nethere.com
Subject: No on EL Monte sand mining!!

Dear Mr. Bennet.

Please join my family and I as we request a "no go" on the propose Sand mining operation. We are property owners here in Lakeside & our family includes some medically fragile members. We also believe that It is not in the best interest of the local community to move forward with the proposal to decimate the local eco site. Too much bad and not much good will come of the venture.

Sincerely,

Penny Longthorne
9125 Creekford Drive
Lakeside, CA 92040

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: El Monte Sand Mining Operation

From: Sandie Seckington [<mailto:puestadelsol152@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 9:28 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: Fw: El Monte Sand Mining Operation

I'm sorry, forgot to add the extra "t" on your last name in the first try!

On Sunday, September 13, 2015 9:18 PM, Sandie Seckington <puestadelsol152@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Bennett:

My husband and I have been in the El Monte Valley for approximately 26 years; 13 years as boarders at an equine boarding facility in the valley, and property owners since 2002. We have major concerns about Mr. Adams' second attempt at mining the valley- first under the guise of the development of a golf course and now under the pretense of "restoring and preserving" our valley's ecosystem.

Our concerns are many:

1. Of primary concern is the threat to the valley's aquifer and groundwater resources. Not only are we in a severe drought situation, but valley residents ALL rely on wells and the impact of severe depth mining and disturbance of the natural flow of the aquifer, not to mention almost certain compromising of water quality is totally unacceptable.
2. Our valley is KNOWN to harbor Valley Fever. You heard from a person at the EIR meeting who suffered from it. How in the world can our residents and visitors, including the many children who accompany families to Oma's Pumpkin Patch, El Monte Park and El Capitan Reservoir be protected against 15 - 25 years of mining and resulting dust?
3. The destruction of our very diverse and biologically important wildlife - mammals, birds, reptiles that inhabit the valley and use it as a natural corridor- is unconscionable. The mining operations, especially over such an extended period of time, will desecrate or dislocate whole populations of wildlife - much of whom provide prey for our rich families of hawks and golden eagles. The whole ecosystem will be irreparably altered. I can personally testify that a male mountain lion visits our valley each spring and passes through our property. I have seen him twice and know from our dogs' reactions whenever it passes through. Members of the Audobon Society have observed our property and told my husband that they have observed a rare finch here. How in the world can this mining operation be remotely considered a "preservation and restoration" activity?

4. The valley is visited by many, many local and out-of-state visitors for its recreational activities, including bicyclists, boaters, fishermen, families picnicking at El Monte Park, horse owners who live in the valley or board here. It's roads have been designated "scenic corridors" by the County of San Diego. A huge sand mining operation spanning 15 - 25 years that tears up and desecrates the valley certainly violates that designation.

5. Having gone through Mr. Adams' first mining venture that supposedly would create a lovely golf course that would support local wildlife, etc., we can tell you unequivocally that the presence of the hundreds of trips by enormous trucks removing the sand from the valley is very dangerous to local residents, visitors, bicylists and horribly impacts the intersection of Lake Jennings Park Road and El Monte Road and also Maplevue and Highway 67. The congestion was unbelievable. And the current project is going to extend 6 days a week over 15 - 25 years??? I can also testify that my husband and I, during the relatively short span of the "golf course" construction / mining operation, had to leave at least 20 - 30 minutes early for work, and I personally had very close encounters with large trucks on our dirt roads connecting Willow Road with El Monte Road where they absolutely would not stop or yield right of way. The waits to get through the intersection of El Monte Road and Lake Jennings Park Road and Maplevue and Hwy 67 were intolerable. In addition, El Monte Road is winding and dangerous under the best circumstances.

6. Finally, there are many other serious concerns, such as devastating loss of property value, loss of businesses such as agriculture and equine boarding facilities in the valley, and quality of life over 15 - 25 years that residents face. It would be sincerely appreciated if these issues were also addressed by the County.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. The issues, on so many fronts, are enormous and severely impact the fragile resources, the wildlife, and the very real families that inhabit the valley.

Sincerely,

Sandra and George Seckington
15202 Willow Road
Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 390-9113

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Sand Mining

From: Richard Draper [<mailto:draperlaw@cox.net>]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: 'Robin Pawl'
Subject: Sand Mining

To whom it may concern,

The Strip Mining proposal is a disaster in the long term. That particular roadway for multiple reasons cannot and will not be able to handle the heavy trucking industry. The mining itself will be a definite breach of peace, quiet and enjoyment of property owners in/all along this roadway. The noise factor and diesel pollution will ruin the air quality in this area especially due to lack of breeze within the walls of this canyon area. It will be very disturbing to the many, many horse boarding facilities and horses. This road will no longer be safe for horseback riding given majority of horses located in this area which was the main reason folks moved "out" to have the enjoyment of said animal only now to be invaded by industry.

Having worked in mining for many years, land replacement is NEVER restored to what it was. Merely filling this striped mined land with water to form a pond is only increasing the potential for West Niles Virus which I guarantee you NO ONE in this county is going to spend the money or time to treat this new pond area to protect the people and horses which both are tremendously susceptible to this deadly virus. I get it. It is cheaper to fill it back up with water, only to leach out over time, then to bring dirt back in. Then again, we are having a water issue. This entire scenario is wrong no matter how you look at it. You are creating a land hazard and "attractive Nuisance" for all the children who enjoy exploring the areas around their homes. Merely creating a pond is going to be nothing but a breeding ground for the mosquito again creating yet another nuisance for the general population in this area in the evenings. So, you sit there and say, well we will use the sprays to control. NOT! Again you are putting the lives of the live stock in great danger exposing them to such an air borne chemical.

Running such a business in such close proximity of a rural residential area will 100% diminish the existing value of each and every home. It is bad enough home value is suffering from the economy that we don't need something of this magnitude to keep this area economically depressed.

Again, I guarantee all of these remedies the county will propose to diffuse the citizens concerns for this project will never materialize. This project is all about money with no regard for the land or welfare of the general public or horses, cattle, etc. These proposals and remedies are merely words and nothing more and a way to skirt around the problems, shut up the public so you can make a buck. Soon, you will be leasing out property to Frack. This will truly be a sad day.

Please reconsider the may permanent & long term negative effects of this mining project. I can't see anything good coming of this project in this area other then lining the pockets of the already rich. I have seen what it ultimately does to the environment over a period of time. Nothing good can come of this.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Draper

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Please Don't Allow Strip Sand Mining in El Monte Valley!

From: sree gopinath [<mailto:sreegopinath@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 6:50 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: Horn, Bill; Roberts, Dave; diane.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov; Cox, Greg; Roberts, Ron; Fitzpatrick, Lisa
Subject: Please Don't Allow Strip Sand Mining in El Monte Valley!

Dear Mr. Bennett, Ms. Fitzpatrick, and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Sree Gopinath. I live at 10289 El Capitan Real Road in El Cajon, CA 92021. I am writing to you about the proposed sand mining of the El Monte Valley (Planning and Development Services Reference: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B).

Specifically, I'm writing to express my opposition to the project. The El Monte Valley has recently become very important to me because it is the home of a therapeutic horse riding facility where my young son, who has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, is taking lessons. In the short time that he's been taking lessons he's made incredible progress with sequencing tasks and following directions. The progress is having a ripple effect throughout our lives.

We chose the ranch our son is riding at for a number of reasons, including its location in the El Monte Valley. The valley is quiet and when you are at the ranch you feel protected by the mountains that surround you. That peace allows the horses to be relaxed and, in turn, allows the children to learn to care for and connect with these amazing animals.

If the sand mining project is allowed to go forward it will devastate this beautiful California valley and dry up, or worse contaminate, the only source of water that feeds those that live and work in the valley. As you are well aware there is too little water running through the veins of our beautiful state. The proposed plan would allow the developers to gain access to what little water there is so that it could be used for washing sand and dust control. How this could sound remotely logical is beyond me. Restated the proposal suggests taking water from the residents (who have no other source) to wash the sand of a private company. The very suggestion is a disgrace.

Even if there was a way to preserve the water for the residents and somehow ensure that it would not be contaminated (which of course, no one could ever promise), usurping the water isn't the only issue. The traffic would increase dramatically - over 200 trucks would go in and out of the valley every single day. With those trucks comes pollution and noise and this area that was not built for such traffic will age faster than it is supposed to. This alone will destroy the ability for most of the businesses that are animal based in the valley to survive. It will certainly destroy the safe haven of learning that has started to unlock the keys to my sons progress.

It's shameful that the sand mining company has donned a name that presents them as stewards of the land when their aim and purpose is profit. They say that they'll restore the land but that is impossible. They will take what they want, make millions, devastate the land and its inhabitants, and in their wake will be a generic park. The fact is that El Monte Valley is one of California's gems with a diverse and thriving ecosystem and should be preserved as it is.

Please do not allow "El Monte Nature Preserve LLC" to take the beating heart of this valley for their own enrichment. Please do the right thing and put a stop to this project. Protect San Diego County and protect the people that live and work and grow and thrive here. Protect it for my three year old son. He needs this place and he needs you. Thank you.

Regards,

Sree Gopinath
phone: 858.414.0422

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Sandming in El Monte Valley, Lakeside, Ca

From: Sue Atlas [<mailto:satlas2237@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 6:15 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: Horn, Bill; Roberts, Dave; diane.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov; Cox, Greg
Subject: Sandming in El Monte Valley, Lakeside, Ca

14732 El Monte Rd.
Lakeside, Ca 92040
September 13, 2015

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave. Suite 310
San Diego, Ca 92123
PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

Dear Mr. Bennett:

My husband and I have lived on El Monte Rd since February of 1981. The reason we bought the property was because of the beauty of the road. It was like going back in time, with farms and ranches all the way to the Reservoir. The valley floor was beautiful and scenic. It reminded us of a country road from Pennsylvania where we were born.

We moved in soon after the rains of 1980 when Channel Rd was washed out and people were stranded along Moreno Rd. The view of the valley was flat because 10 feet of land from both sides on the San Diego River had washed out. There was nothing in the riverbed and it was flat across to Willow Rd. The Dam was overflowing. It is very different now. Today, I took a picture of El Capitan Reservoir. I have never seen it so low.

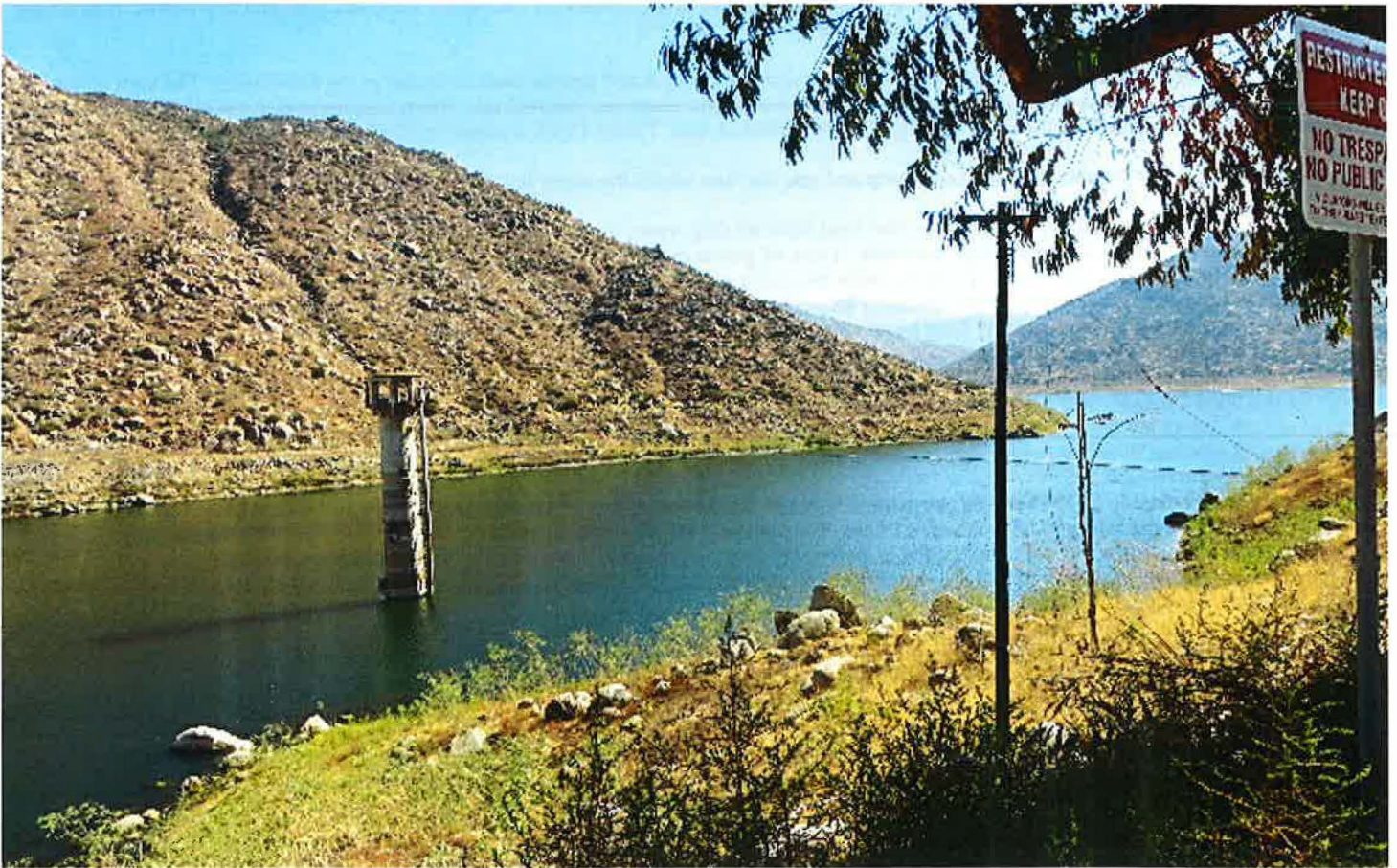
This is looking toward I-8. It used to be the boat ramp and you can see where the water level used to be.

I've included these pictures because the people on this road have no City water, most of us are on wells. We spend quite a bit of money on equipment to make it soft and then to make it drinkable. It has 44 grains of hardness. I'm not sure what other people do. This project is planning to use about 143,000,000 gallons of water a year to water the roads and keep the dust down from the mining. And they are going to need to keep the dust to be down to lessen the threat of Valley fever spores in this valley. Who knows where the spores will end up when we have Santa Ana winds blowing from the east? This could affect many people living not just in this valley but in all the East County area. Is there going to be a person from the county inspecting the use of water, the spores in the air, if this company is following the rules? How often? This company has put berms all over this area so people cannot see what is being done. We no longer have a view of the valley floor. After they put them in for the "Golf Course", they started mining the sand. This is a picture of the 90 ft. hole left after taking the sand and one of the berms they built all over the valley floor. It doesn't look so deep here, but it is about 90 ft. deep. This will be filled with water in the which will increase the risk of West Nile Disease which are carried by mosquitoes.

Were you here for the fires in 2003? How do you plan to fight the fires if the wells aren't functioning? My house would have been lost if the Van Ommering's hadn't had the ability to fill their water trucks. They saved many houses by stopping the fire at the edge of our property. This also happens to be dead end road. All the people have to go out the way they came in. There was a lot of livestock to be moved out in the 2003 fires. We knew at 5:00 AM that we had to evacuate. What happens if it's in the afternoon with traffic from the sand trucks and people using Hwy. 67 and the 52 and the boats from the dam.

I've seen pumas and deer on this road, rabbits, frogs (after a rain sometimes the frogs would fill the road and there was no way you could avoid hitting them), coyotes, voles, and many varieties of birds. What happens to their habitat?

I would really urge you to come look at what this company has done to the valley before you decide anything. I have many other concerns about this plan but I'm trying to only include the environmental concerns. Please take a very close look at this and stop this sand mining project.



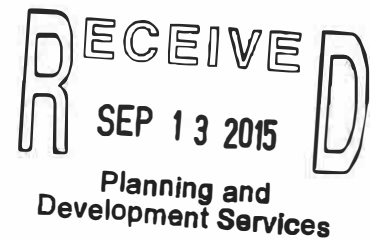


Thank you,

Susan and Steven Atlas

To: Mr. Jim Bennett
County of San Diego Planning and Development Services

Suzanne M. Till
9342 Goyette Place
Santee, CA 92071



Planning and Development Services Reference: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

I am writing to express my concerns of the El Monte Valley Strip Sand Mining Project.

I live downstream of this project and receive my drinking water from Padre Dam Municipal Water District. I am concerned about the impacts of this project to the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin in terms of groundwater recharge and water quality. In addition, I am concerned how this project will impact at present and in the future for the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin in regards to drinking water and source water protection for the Padre Dam Municipal Water District (PDMWD). I have three primary areas of comment:

1. Directed Potable Reuse Project by Water Agencies Downstream:

Since May 2015, PDMWD has been testing a water purification (directed potable reuse) system downstream. In August 2015, the CA State Water Resources Control Board (the agency that provided a grant for this pilot project) had a meeting and toured this new facility. It is my understanding once testing is complete PDMWD purified water will be artificially injected and stored in the Santee-El Monte Valley Groundwater Basin. Both PDMWD and Helix Water District (HWD) will use this water as a potable water source.

Will this project impact current and future drinking water sources from the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin, especially for PDMWD Directed Potable Reuse project described above?

2. Groundwater management agencies and plans:

According to the PDMWD draft plan for the East County Regional Water Reuse Program dated August 13, 2015, page 6:

The Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin is an alluvial aquifer underlying the San Diego River and its tributaries. ... There is no groundwater basin management plan or groundwater sustainability plan at present although a Groundwater Management Planning Study was prepared for the San Diego County Water Authority in 2001. Plans are underway to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Has your environmental review coordinated with and received comments from the CA Department of Water Resources, PDMWD, HWD and San Diego County Water Authority, concerning future plans for a groundwater sustainability agency and plan for the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin? Again I reiterate the importance of given the future use of the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin as an important storage facility for directed potable reuse for East San Diego County.

3. Review of proposed projects by drinking water agencies and departments:

Given the shrinking available potable water sources in this time of drought, it is essential that your environmental assessment notify and receive input from the following water agencies, to include CA DWR, PDMWD, HWD, US Bureau of Reclamation, State of California Water Resources Control Board Advisory Group on Feasibility of Developing Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse, San Diego County Water Authority, and City of San Diego.

I would like to be added to your mailing list for this project, and would like to know when and where there be public meetings for input on this project. A public meeting should be held at the PDMWD at least once to notify rate payers and agencies involved in the directed potable reuse project sponsored by PDMWD for the Santee-El Monte Groundwater Basin.

Thank you,

Suzanne M. Till
surfingsuzanne@gmail.com

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

From: William Buzzell [<mailto:wrbuzzell@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 7:13 PM

To: Bennett, Jim

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

Mr. Jim Bennett,

I am writing to express my opposition to the El Monte Valley Strip Sand Mining Project. Please support me and the entire San Diego community by objecting to, and saying "NO" to the El Monte Valley Nature Preserve LLC strip sand mining project.

I have made my career out of both selling real estate and building single family homes. I am licensed as both a Realtor for 35 years, and a general contractor for 15 years. I have developed land in most parts of San Diego County. I have designed and repaired septic systems, drawn up grading plans for submittal to the County of San Diego, and I have studied, contracted for, and attended several water well drilling operations. I consider myself quite familiar all phases of residential construction. I have built and lived in homes that will be affected by the above referenced plans. I have sold dozens of homes and ranches in the area to be affected. Peoples lives and the values of their investments will be forever affected. In a very negative way.

The main concern I have though is the effect this project will have on the communities of Lakeside, El Cajon, and Santee. Traffic patterns will be disrupted. Children will be in danger more than ever before. The air quality will be changed because of the dust created by the mining and the large trucks moving in and out of the project area. The polluted air will damage the health of people, livestock, and wildlife could be damaged by 15 years of foul air. But more than the air quality is the damage that the project could do to the quality of the water.

As I am sure you know the water table is very high in this area. Not as high as it once was because of the severe drought, but it is high. If the project is not put to a halt large earth moving equipment will be moving sand and other earth to a depth of

90

feet deep. Because the sand and other soils have never been compacted by heavy equipment, especially to a depth of

90 feet

, no one really knows just how stable the soils are at that depth. Will these unstable soils cause a collapse of the earth that has previously provided a protective shield to the ground water in this region? Will the quality of the ground water that every living thing in this region counts on be permanently affected by this unnecessary and harmful action?

Possibly

. If the ground water in that region of San Diego County is irreparably harmed by the sand mining proposal is there a back up plan ready to provide hundreds if not thousands of homes potable water for the next fifty years?

The answer to that question is no.

Mr. Bennett, this proposal is entirely unnecessary and is being proposed by a private concern for the sole purpose of making a huge profit. Is other sand nearby available to provide San Diego with concrete and other building materials for which sand is a major component? Yes. Sand is regularly transported from the Imperial Valley, Riverside, San Bernardino, and even the country of Mexico. While this other material may be more expensive, what is a little extra cost to a home or commercial builder if that means that other home and ranch owners, whose only source of drinkable water comes from the ground via a well, have clean drinkable water from here on. As I stated earlier in my letter I am a home builder. I am not an environmentalist whose sole purpose is to try to dissuade you from approving this project for political reasons. No, I am a builder of homes that likes to make a profit when I build. But I am also a seller of homes. A man with a career and clients and friends to protect. And I have the specific knowledge, because of my 35 years of training and license

S

, to be able to state my opinion through an objective and learned opinion. It is most earnest opinion that this is a

very

bad plan, ill considered and prepared, and will cause decades of harm to a beautiful and very productive part of our county. Please do everything in your power to stop it.

Sincerely,

William R. Buzzell

Realtor BRE license number 00888792

Licensed General Contractor (B-1) CSLB # 789781

619-972-9352

From: [Ana Potts](#)
To: [Bennett, Jim](#); [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: lfwood@sandiego.gov
Subject: CEQA comments
Date: Monday, September 14, 2015 3:49:51 PM

SCOPING COMMENTS

From: Ana Nita-Potts
Address: 12730 Laurel Street #303, Lakeside, CA 92040
AnaPotts99@yahoo.com
September 14, 2015

Regarding : El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project
PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B
http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/Current_Pprojects/MUP-98-014W2.html

Dear Mr. Bennett and Mr. Hingtgen,

Impacts and concerns related to the sand mining project planned in the El Monte Valley I respectfully request for you to review:

1. There are several main issues at play, the most important being the **underground water**. Getting rid of the water in exchange for the sand in a state plagued by drought should be considered nothing less than a crime. The aquifer in the valley is the third largest in the San Diego County and supplies water to East County. Removing the natural sand filter in the underground river to create a riparian habitat will resurface that aquifer exposing it to contamination and evaporation. First of all, bringing the water to the surface will disrupt the San Diego River course, which goes from Julian to the Pacific Ocean and will create incommensurable environmental and hydrological impacts not only for the locals, but also all the way down the river where it meets the coast in Ocean Beach.
2. Then, the water will undoubtedly be **polluted** by the chemical spills caused by the hundreds of Diesel trucks operating at the site, the nitrites entering the soil and other hazardous materials used in the sand mining process. In addition to that, all the **wells** in the area will dry up, forcing the unwilling residents to request to be connected to the city water and sewage. Who is going to ensure the water quality is going to remain the same for the residents?
3. With such a huge body of water resurfaced, there is great risk for **West Nile Virus** spreading widely in the area.
4. Before that happens though, there is a very high risk of spreading **Valley Fever** way beyond Lakeside's border by stirring up huge clouds of sand. This fungus is located in the valley, usually around Native Americans' artifacts sites and it can be spread by wind. The sand miners' reps claim they will constantly water down the sand during the extraction to minimize the spread of a Valley Fever. One may wonder, where is that huge amount of water going to come from? What is more important, the sand or the public health?
5. El Monte Valley contains such lush vegetation and many **endangered species**, such as Glossy Snakes, Least Bells Vireos, Gnatcatchers and a rare butterfly found nowhere else (a recent discovery, in process to be documented). The very rich and diverse habitat of the valley was documented for the past five years with photos and videos we can provide for your consideration. Please review the impact of the sand mining on these endangered and federally protected species:

<https://www.facebook.com/download/893987294016694/Species%20in%20the%20project%20area..pdf>

6. Two roads, El Monte Rd. and Willow Rd., designated as scenic corridors, flank the valley on both sides. These roads won't be scenic anymore without the scenic valley. These two roads connect the town of Lakeside to a very rich valley not only in historical artifacts, but also in biodiversity, which constitutes the heart of this community. Many local businesses are thriving in the valley, for example, the Van Ommering dairy farm – a place visited for instructional purposes

by thousands of kids every single year. One may wonder, what is the risk of exposing so many children to the hazard of such a big sand mining plant, not to mention the Valley Fever fungus? Moreover, many horse-boarding facilities will lose their place and their customers won't have access to any more trails in the valley.

7. The project is estimated to last from 15 to 30 years and mine approximately 500 acres of sand using around 350 Diesel trucks per day in an out of the valley. There are only two roads accessing the area: Willow Rd, which is a dirt road and El Monte Rd. which has two lanes with no room for expansion. The amount of heavy traffic on these two roads then extended to the major roads and highways in Lakeside and beyond will certainly paralyze the traffic in the area.
8. El Monte Valley is also a popular and essential part of the equestrian businesses and destroying the horse trails would greatly affect the large equestrian boarding facilities in Lakeside, known for its endless miles of trails.
9. The valley is known for its steep mountains guarding a beautiful scenic natural corridor ending into El Cajon Mountain, the biggest monolithic formation in San Diego county which can be seen from downtown San Diego. All this beauty will be forever lost for the generations to come. The sand mining project will forever destroy an area that is already in use for multiple recreational purposes: El Monte Park, the El Monte Valley and El Capitan Lake Reservoir.

Please do a study related to the above mentioned concerns. Please provide a confirmation of receipt for my letter. Thank you.

Best,
Ana Nita-Potts

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: proposal for sand mining in El Monte Valley

From: pansyannie@aol.com [mailto:pansyannie@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 12:15 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: proposal for sand mining in El Monte Valley

Planning and Development Services
Reference:
PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B
Attention Jim Bennett
5510 Overland Ave. Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am writing to offer my thoughts and ideas about the scope and nature of the environmental impacts that can and will be caused by the El Monte Valley Sand Mining Project. I ask that these concerns be thoroughly considered in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

1. One of my biggest concerns regards the aquifer, which I understand is one of the largest in San Diego County. At the present time, the water and the sand work together to maintain the San Diego River, which is underground in the El Monte Valley for much of the year. The sand helps to "hold" the water in the aquifer. If the sand is removed by sand mining, then what will help "hold" the water? Much of the aquifer will be lost. How can we justify the loss of most of this aquifer in dry, southern California, especially during this time of severe drought? How can the sand mining operation replace the loss of this precious water? The damage to the aquifer will be irreversible. The damage to the aquifer will affect the rest of the San Diego River between Lakeside and the ocean.

a. Not only will removing the sand cause water to be lost as described above, but the sand mining process will itself use copious amounts of water in the course of operating equipment and removing the sand. How can we justify the use of huge quantities of water for sand mining, when humans, wildlife, and vegetation are thirsty for water, especially during this time of severe drought? How can the sand mining company replace the loss of this water?

b. More problems will occur because the water will be exposed when sand miners open the center of the valley and expose the water underneath. Standing water will be lost to evaporation. Standing water will be exposed to contamination. Standing water will become a breeding ground for mosquitoes that are carriers for West Nile virus, which exists in this area. How does the sand mining company propose to address these problems caused by standing water? How will contaminated water be cleaned?

c. The loss of water in the aquifer will have an adverse effect on the wells of residents in the El Monte Valley. How will the sand mining company address these adverse effects, which may include the loss of the wells and/or the contamination of the wells of residents?

d. The loss of most of the aquifer will cause the entire El Monte Valley to become drier, which will increase the fire danger in the valley. How will the sand mining company mitigate the effects of a drier environment that will have a greater risk of fire?

2. Another one of my biggest concerns regards the plants and wildlife in the El Monte Valley. I would like to see all of the plants and wildlife identified and studied. What effect will the sand mining project have on the breeding and nesting of birds in the area?

What effect will the sand mining project have on the breeding and life cycle of riparian inhabitants in the area? mammals? insects? bats? How will the sand mining project impact threatened, endangered, and/or sensitive species? Will it be possible to mitigate these effects, or will species be lost forever to this valley?

3. Mining sand in the El Monte Valley will cause huge amounts of sand dust to be windborne, in spite of any efforts to water down the area. The sand in El Monte Valley contains Valley Fever, a fungus that could be spread by the wind, exposing humans and animals (both domestic and wild) to this illness, in areas even beyond Lakeside. Will the sand mining project set up a fund to be held in reserve to address the medical needs of people and animals that become ill with Valley Fever?

4. Greenhouse gas emissions are another major concern. These emissions will come from the heavy equipment working the sand operation, as well as from numerous trucks going back and forth 10 hours a day, in and out of the valley. Will these greenhouse gases remain in the valley where they will have an effect on all things (people, plants and animals) living in the valley! Will the gases be dispersed? In any case, they will contribute to global warming. How will these greenhouse gas emissions be measured and monitored? How will they be mitigated?

5. El Monte Valley is a designated visual corridor and popular recreational destination. How will these features of the valley be impacted by sand mining?

6. How will important soil organisms in El Monte Valley be impacted by sand mining in the valley?

7. El Monte Valley is an important wildlife corridor. How will sand mining impact the movement of wildlife in the valley?

I request that an entirely new Environmental Impact Report be done regarding the El Monte Valley. I understand that there was an EIR done for the golf club project, but I think that at this time a completely new EIR needs to be completed. This is an entirely new project.

WATER IN THE AQUIFER IS MORE VALUABLE THAN SAND. WATER SUSTAINS LIFE.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Ann Sullivan

11275 Manzanita Road

Lakeside

Resident of Lakeside for 15 years

619-561-0887

pansyannie@aol.com

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Hingtgen, Robert J
Subject: RE: El Monte Sand Mine& Nature Preserve

-----Original Message-----

From: austin digenan [<mailto:austin.digenan@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: El Monte Sand Mine& Nature Preserve

These are my concerns about this project

The existing EIR is old and dated. It does not pertain to this project as it is proposed. An EIR that considers the migration of the species of the valley. The seasonal growth of the plant life. To get a true, comprehensive impact on the valley the new EIR should include a full year of study.

What will be done about the potential loss of land, property, homes and lives during rainstorms "hungry water", causing head water cutting and cause upstream property to wash into the pit?

Will effected property owners be compensated for their losses?

Will effected property owners be compensated for the "sand value" of their property that is lost?

What about the loss of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species such as but not limited to chaparral plants, coastal sage, sycamores, oak trees, willows, Bumble Bees, Quail, Roadrunners, woodpeckers, owls, gnat catchers, egrets, yellow warbler, Checker spot butterfly, Quino checker spot butterfly, elderberry trees, elderberry longhorn beetles, willow fly catcher, sage sparrow, red diamond backed rattle snake, rosa boa, great grey horned owls, San Diego ring-necked snake, Laguna skipper, Swallow-tailed butterfly, Zayante band winged grasshopper, Ceanothus Moth?

What will be done with the open water that could become a breeding ground for mosquitos that are vectors for West Nile Virus and Dengue Fever?

I am concerned about the negative impact on breed and nesting season for all wildlife in the valley and how this will impact the sensitive species perhaps losing these animals in the valley forever.

Thank you for your attention and time on this matter.

Austin Digenan
15836 El Monte Road
P O Box 122
Lakeside, Ca 92040
austin.digenan@gmail.com

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: Sand for Water EIR?

From: Barry Treahy Sr. [<mailto:nosandmining@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 9:00 AM
To: Bennett, Jim; officeofthegeneralmanager@mwdh20.com; Jacob, Dianne; janienne.friend@water.ca.gov; chiara.clemente@waterboards.ca.gov
Cc: artrocco@cox.net; Catherine Gorka; Ray Ellis; jesettefrankel@sbcglobal.net; josehefrankel@sbcglobal.net; linda@hazymeadow.com; rose.neal.masters@gmail.com; Wood, Lisa ; Lisa Wood; Milt Cyphert
Subject: Sand for Water EIR?

Paris (AFP) - Snow cover in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, a water lifeline for California's cities and agriculture, has hit its lowest level in 500 years, a study said Monday. Measured on April 1, the natural, frozen reservoir was barely five percent of the 1950-2000 average, threatening tens of millions of Californians and the state's \$50-billion (44-billion-euro) agriculture sector with chronic water shortages, its authors warned. And things were set to get worse, they wrote in the journal Nature Climate Change. "We should be prepared for this type of snow drought to occur much more frequently because of rising temperatures," lead author Valerie Trouet, a professor at the University of Arizona, said in a statement.

So the Governor tells Californians to conserve and that we are at crisis, The California Authority, Metro Water, SD County Water Authority and City/County bureaucrats tell us to conserve.

So far, not one of those agencies that I know of, has made any statements about this sand mining boondoggle or taken an open position for or against.

135 acre feet or about 88,000,000 gallons out of our aquifer?

I again, reiterate with this newest information about the depth and scope of available water, that trading sand for water is out of the question!

The facts speak loudly and our Supervisors need to know them now, and when the vote comes.

Barry A. Treahy
14775 El Monte Rd.
Lakeside Ca. 92040

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Letter to SD Co. Water Authority

From: Barry Treahy Sr. [<mailto:nosandmining@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 7:40 AM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: Catherine Gorka
Subject: Letter to SD Co. Water Authority

The attachment was a letter I transmitted by USPS mail 8-22-15 to Mark Weston Chair. I am resending it to Jim Bennett as a result that there is a divergence in credibility with the Authority and acknowledgement of disclosed information at the last public meeting:

Fax: (858) 522-6568
San Diego County Water Authority

8-22-15

Mark Weston, Chair
SD County Water Authority
fax 858-522-6568

Dear Mr. Weston:

I remember talking with you during the Sewer to Tap/sand mining when you were General Manager.

Now that you are the Chair at the San Diego County Water Authority, you above anyone else would know the impact of water vs sand mining from your past position.

The following is one of my concerns which you already are privy to, as a result the original permit of yours, now has become the current permit holder project.

Environmental Impact Report, Comments on this Notice of Preparation PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B: from the County failed to cover, is the transition of silt from sand for 15 years to extract 80% sand, leaving 20% silt requiring ???acre feet of water, who knows how much. (1) they have to get their water from San Diego River Aquifer or Reservoir water from the Colorado River. (2) In my humble opinion, whichever they choose, they will be getting Colorado River water. They will be excavating up to 100' below grade, just 2 miles West of City of San Diego reservoir El Capitan. Your project engineer said extraction would go to 12'. Quite a difference including impact. All kinds of conflicts, most importantly Governor Browns State of Emergency for water conservation. Sand for Water?

Now that you are in the Governors corner regarding a severe drought, how does this old project of yours size up today?

Sincerely,

Barry A. Treahy
14775 El Monte Rd.
Lakeside Ca. 92040

PS: Do you believe the aquifer is refilled with San Diego purchased Colorado River Water downstream?

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Please Don't Allow Strip Sand Mining in El Monte Valley!

From: Betsy Gopinath [<mailto:betsy.gopinath@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 3:34 AM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: Horn, Bill; Roberts, Dave; diane.jacob@sdcountry.ca.gov; Cox, Greg; Roberts, Ron; Fitzpatrick, Lisa
Subject: Please Don't Allow Strip Sand Mining in El Monte Valley!

Dear Mr. Bennett, Ms. Fitzpatrick, and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Betsy Gopinath. I live at 10289 El Capitan Real Road in El Cajon, CA 92021. I am writing to you about the proposed sand mining of the El Monte Valley (Planning and Development Services Reference: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B).

Specifically, I'm writing to express my opposition to the project. The El Monte Valley has recently become very important to me because it is the home of a therapeutic horse riding facility where my young son, who has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, is taking lessons. In the short time that he's been taking lessons he's made incredible progress with sequencing tasks and following directions. The progress is having a ripple effect throughout our lives.

We chose the ranch our son is riding at for a number of reasons, including its location in the El Monte Valley. The valley is quiet and when you are at the ranch you feel protected by the mountains that surround you. That peace allows the horses to be relaxed and, in turn, allows the children to learn to care for and connect with these amazing animals.

If the sand mining project is allowed to go forward it will devastate this beautiful California valley and dry up, or worse contaminate, the only source of water that feeds those that live and work in the valley. As you are well aware there is too little water running through the veins of our beautiful state. The proposed plan would allow the developers to gain access to what little water there is so that it could be used for washing sand and dust control. How this could sound remotely logical is beyond me. Restated the proposal suggests taking water from the residents (who have no other source) to wash the sand of a private company. The very suggestion is a disgrace.

Even if there was a way to preserve the water for the residents and somehow ensure that it would not be contaminated (which of course, no one could ever promise), usurping the water isn't the only issue. The traffic would increase dramatically - over 200 trucks would go in and out of the valley every single day. With those trucks comes pollution and noise and this area that was not built for such traffic will age faster than it is supposed to. This alone will destroy the ability for most of the businesses that are animal based in the valley to survive. It will certainly destroy the safe haven of learning that has started to hand us the keys to unlock my sons progress.

It's shameful that the sand mining company has donned a name that presents them as stewards of the land when their aim and purpose is profit. They say that they'll restore the land but that is impossible. They will take what they want, make millions, devastate the land and its inhabitants, and in their wake will be a generic park. The fact is that El Monte Valley is one of California's gems with a diverse and thriving ecosystem and should be preserved as it is.

Please do not allow "El Monte Nature Preserve LLC" to take the beating heart of this valley for their own enrichment. Please do the right thing and put a stop to this project. Protect San Diego County and protect the people that live and work and grow and thrive here. Protect it for my three year old son. He needs this place and he needs you. Thank you.

Regards,

--

Betsy Gopinath, J.D.
betsy.gopinath@gmail.com

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: El Monte Valley Sandmining scoping letter

From: ScoopMcMillen@aol.com [mailto:ScoopMcMillen@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 11:53 AM

To: Bennett, Jim; Wardlaw, Mark; Jacob, Dianne; scoopmcmillen@aol.com

Subject: El Monte Valley Sandmining scoping letter

Betty McMillen
13259 Idyl Dr.
Lakeside, Ca. 92040
scoopmcmillen@aol.com

Dear Supervisor Jacob, Jim Bennett and Mark Wardlaw,

I am writing in regard to the El Monte Valley Sand Mining and Nature Preserve project. I am a long time Lakeside resident and concerned citizen for the preservation of Lakeside's semi rural areas.

I am deeply concerned that Mr Michael Beck, the Planning Commissioner for San Diego County, has a conflict of interest in El Monte Valley. He is a partner with the sand mining company and the restoration project in El Monte Valley. He should not be allowed to participate in any way on the Planning Commission Board because he would have a great affect on the other Commissioners views and be able to sway their prospective of the project.

Please remove Michael Beck from any association with this project. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Betty McMillen
619-443-1133

9/8/2015

Billi-Jo Swanson

12345 Moreno Ave.

Lakeside, Ca. 92040

To: Mark Wardlaw and Darren Gretler,



**Planning and
Development Services**

This letter is concerning PDS2009-3300-09-016 (MUP) PDS2009-3310-09-001 (RP) LOG NO. 09-14-008

I am against all the sand mining and rock crushing and recycling for re-sale.

I live at 12345 Moreno Ave (across the street from this activity).

I have attached several photos of the dust and dirt produced from this project. I cannot add an audio as I do not have a video camera. But the terrible noise from the rock crushing is ear splitting. Also Large trucks (over 7 tons) driving on Moreno Ave to get to the pit.

I live in an agricultural area and appreciate the peace and quiet for which I am entitled.

I have lived at this address since the early 1960's.

I would propose eliminating this activity from this area.

Thank you,

Billi-Jo Swanson





From: [Billy Ortiz](#)
To: [Bennett, Jim](#); [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: [Ana Nita](#); lfwood@sandiego.gov
Subject: CEQA comments
Date: Monday, September 14, 2015 9:48:29 AM

SCOPING COMMENTS

From: Billy Ortiz

Address: 12317 Aurora Dr. Space 28, El Cajon, CA 92021

w.ortiz1@cox.net

September 12, 2015

Dear Mr. Bennett and Mr. Hingtgen

Regarding : El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project

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

http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/Current_Projects/MUP-98-014W2.html

Some environmental impacts you may not have considered:

1. Coccidioidomycosis, also known as Valley Fever (VF). Cases of the fungal disease rose at stunning rates over the last decade, especially in California and Arizona, according to one report by Voice of OC:

<http://voiceofoc.org/2013/03/cdc-confirms-valley-fever-epidemic-cases-up-850-percent-in-california/>

I contracted Coccidioidomycosis in El Monte Valley (EMV), Lakeside Ca. There are others who have contracted VF in EMV. Valley Fever can be hard to detect and can be deadly, according to the CDC:

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/valley-fever-10-things/>

Hanson Aggregates established a sand mine at the far West end of the El Monte Valley at 10402 El Monte Road, Lakeside, CA in the 1970's, and closing it during the 1990's. Therefore, Coccidioides (the fungus causing Valley Fever) has possibly been stirred up since the early 1970's.

The current proposed El Monte Sand Mine project would affect approximately 500 acres of the valley floor. During normal off shore wind conditions, the fungus spores could flow East towards Alpine, Descanso, Jamul, Pine Valley, Campo and other communities in the Eastern mountains of San Diego county. During a Santa Ana event, the wind flow is West towards Lakeside, Santee, El Cajon, and beyond towards San Diego mesas and coastal communities. We have seen how devastating wildfires can be during the Cedar Fire in 2003 during a Santa Ana wind conditions. The threat of VF fungus spreading in the winds could have a major environmental impact, not just in the project zone (EMV), but countywide.

Please do a study on how this deadly fungus could spread to the entire county with the winds.

2. Red Harvester Ants: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_harvester_ant are a crucial part of a healthy ecosystem. Research on the impact of ants on their local environment has revealed they play an important role. They have a dual effect on their local ecosystem which affects both the density and diversity of other species around them, including animals much higher up in the food chain. Red Harvester Ants are a favorite food for the Horned Lizard in the El Monte Valley: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110131133227.htm>. The combined mineral extraction project will affect 189 acres of land located in El Monte Valley on approximately 530 acres currently owned by Helix Water District. Harvester ants are wide spread in the mining project zone. Removal of 183 acres will devastate the Harvester Ant and Horned Lizard habitat.

Please do a study of how removal of top soil in the El Monte Valley will affect the Harvester Ant and Horned Lizard.

3. Least Bells Vireo and California Blue Gray Gnatcatcher live and forage in the many shrubs and trees that grow in the proposed sand mining project location.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5Wx2CrV28I>

Stripping 183 acres of Least Bells Vireo and California Blue Gray Gnatcatcher habitat will have a big impact on both federally protected birds in EMV.

Please do a study of consequences to the Least Bells Vireo and Gnatcatcher habitat removal.

4. There are also migratory birds (Oriels, Yellow Breasted Chat, Northern Shrike, Humming birds, Red Shafted Flicker) that will lose their foraging habitat.
Please do a study on how these migratory birds will be affected.

Please do a study on how removal by sand mining of an entire ecosystem within the boundaries and surrounding area of the El Monte Sand Mine Project (El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B) will affect the Black Tailed Jack Rabbit, Gray Fox, Bob Cat, Mountain Lion, Glossy Snake, Quino Checker spot Butterfly, Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl, White Tailed Kite, Red Shoulder Hawk, Red Tailed hawk, Coopers Hawk, Golden Eagle, Deer, Coyote, Pack Rat, Field Mice, Long Tailed Weasel, Scorpion, Skink Lizard, Fence Lizard, Horned Toad, Arroyo Toad, Western Spade foot Toad, Glossy Snake, Southern Pacific Rattle Snake, Red Diamondback Rattle Snake, Speckled Rattle Snake, Rosy Boa Snake, Red Racer Snake, Gopher Snake, King Snake, Swallows, (bird) Finch, Humming Birds, California Towhee, California Thrasher, Cactus Wren, Beswick Wren, House Wren, Sparrow, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Nut Hatch, Oak Titmouse, Bush Titmouse, Scrub Jay, Blue Bird, Mocking Bird, Morning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Swifts, American Kestrel, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Raven, Crow, California Quail, Greater Roadrunner, Vaux's Swift, White Throated Swift, Anna's Humming Bird, Costa's

Humming Bird, Calliopi Humming Bird, Western Wood Pewee, Hamands Flycatcher, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Western Scrub jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, Common Side-blotched Lizard, Granit Spiny Lizard,, Western Whiptail.

5. We are experiencing one of the worst droughts in the state California's history.

Please do a study on how the removal of the sand (the aquifers natural filter) will affect the Santee/El Monte Valley Aquifer and the El Monte Valley Ecosystem.

6. There is a Native American archeological site within the mining area. It is located on the North West corner of the El Monte Valley Sand Mine Project site. It is within the 100 foot buffer zone but could extend farther out towards the south into the mining area. It has been covered over with a hard clay type mound of dirt to protect the site. It is roughly 200 yards in length and about 60 feet wide. It is historically part of an the Indian village directly across Willow Rd. to the North.

Please do a study to see if it extends out farther beyond the protected area.

7. Please do a study on dust that will be released into the El Monte Valley. Is the dust harmful to human and animal.

8. The valley has very steep mountains an both side and boxed in by El Cajon MT at the East end of the Valley. Please do a study on noise level the sand mine processing plant will create in El Monte Valley.

9. According to project plans, it is said 150 to 250 tractor and trailer big rig trucks will enter the valley. I feel it will be much more. Including the recreation vehicle/boats that enter the valley 5 days per week added to the sand mine trucks, it is my opinion the road will become too dangerous to all the residents and visitors of the El Monte Valley. The road will receive heavy wear and tear.

Please do a study on what is safe and what noise levels will be do to heavy traffic for El Monte Rd and Willow rd. both roads will surely be used by El Monte Nature Preserve LLC / sand mine company.

10. Water quality will degrade and become unsuitable for human consumption in the El Monte Valley due to sand mine wastewater that will likely be recharged back into the aquifer.

Please do a study on what is an expectable amount wastewater to be released back into the El Monte basin.

11. Willow Road and El Monte Road (from State Route 67 to the southern end of El Capitan Reservoir in Lakeside CA) are both considered a Scenic Route. Willow Rd. runs 4 miles long, almost in its entirety, East to West through the El Monte Valley. El Monte Rd is approximately

7 miles long and runs East To West in its entirety the length of El Monte Valley. You will find this under "SECOND PRIORITY SCENIC ROUTES" in this San Diego County Document:

<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/advance/oldgp/scenichighwayelement.pdf>

Please do study on how El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B will impact the El Monte Valley scenic corridor.

12. If approved, El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project would create physical changes in the appearance of the El Monte Valley in Lakeside, CA.

Please do a study on the socio-economic consequences of physical changes due to the projected removal of 12 million tons of river bottom sand in the El Monte Valley.

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/vol1/sec5/ch36eir/chap36.htm...>

Sincerely
Billy Ortiz



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 14, 2015

Mr. Robert Hingtgen
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

RECEIVED
SEP 14 2015
Planning and
Development Services

Subject: Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project (SCH#2015081025)

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). The following statements and comments have been prepared pursuant to the Department's authority as Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project (California Environmental Quality Act, [CEQA] Guidelines § 15386) and pursuant to our authority as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Guidelines section 15381 over those aspects of the proposed project that come under the purview of the California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code § 2050 *et seq.*) and Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.* The Department also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program. The County of San Diego (County) participates in the NCCP program by implementing its approved Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan (SAP).

The project is located between El Monte Road and Willow Road approximately 0.5 to 2.25 miles northeast of the El Monte Road and Lake Jennings Park Road intersection, in the Lakeside Community Planning Area within an unincorporated area of San Diego County.

The proposed project would extract up to 18 million tons of mineral resource over a 15-year period with an additional four years required to complete the reclamation activities. The project would be developed in four mining phases of approximately 26, 56, 48, and 36 acres respectively, and would generally proceed in an east to west direction. Extraction activities on each phase are anticipated to last three to five years. The site would be progressively reclaimed and restored to an end use of open space with an open water pond and recreational trail easements. The combined mineral extraction and reclamation project would affect approximately 188.6 acres. The total Major Use Permit (MUP) boundary is nearly 530 acres on land currently owned by Helix Water District. The proposed sand mining operation would include an aggregate processing facility, support structures, and buildings and storage containers. The first phase would involve mining to create a sub-grade pad for location of a portable processing plant, development of the initial extraction area, and the installation of a channel erosion control structure to prevent head cutting of the San Diego River channel to the east. Wash fines (silt and clay) would be used to fill three surface depressions created during initial grading activities for golf course ponds.

Reclamation would be completed for each specific phase after completion of mining in that area. Reclamation would include establishment of all final slopes, placement of fill to create a series of benches adjacent to the extraction pond, revegetation, weed control, and monitoring. After final grading, a top dressing would be applied and each bench planted with a specific native seed mix identified in the Reclamation Plan. Planting of graded areas would be conducted as final landforms are established and become available for revegetation. Following the cessation of extractive operations, all equipment and temporary structures would be removed from the project site. Remaining access road segments and operational related disturbance would be scarified and graded to the final reclamation contours and then revegetated. Water required for dust control, watering of outgoing loads, and for the processing equipment is estimated at 132 acre-feet annually. The project would obtain its water from on-site wells and ponds once sand extraction activities extend below the water table.

The Department offers the following comments and recommendations to assist the County in avoiding or minimizing potential project impacts on biological resources.

Specific Comments

1. The Department recommends the County ensure an adequately-sized north-south wildlife movement corridor consistent with MSCP guidelines for the duration of the project and subsequent restoration in order to ensure a functional connection for wildlife between adjacent areas mapped as pre-approved mitigation area (PAMA) under the SAP.
2. The Department recommends preservation of raptor foraging habitat for at least five sensitive raptor species historically known from the former agricultural areas and other grassland areas as noted in surveys for the previous golf course project. The Department also recommends that any mitigation to offset the significant impact of displacement of raptor foraging from the area be of sufficient scope to offset the impact. This may consist of preservation of grassland habitat off site of sufficient quality and long-term viability and management to sustain similarly diverse raptor populations.
3. The Department recommends updated surveys and analysis of impacts for the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), California gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila californica californica*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*) and San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*). In addition, researchers with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have expressed interest in furthering conservation of the California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*) found in the project vicinity and thought to be dependent on the sandy habitat proposed for extraction under the project. The Department recommends extensive survey and analysis for impacts to this species, including development of a subsequent plan for its conservation.
4. The Department recommends the SEIR include extensive discussion of the influence of the project on the long-term viability of the adjacent Hanson El Monte Pond Flood Control, Restoration and Recharge (HEMP) Project. This should include analysis of the applicability of restoration aspects of this project to the goals and objectives of the HEMP, such as acquisition or restoration of nesting and foraging habitat for the tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) and western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*).
5. The Department recommends the SEIR include extensive analysis of how both the operation and reclamation aspects of the project would impact sediment transport and

movement of remaining watershed flows and analysis of any subsequent long-term effects on native alluvial habitats both on- and off-site of the project. A thorough hydrological analysis should examine alternatives for moving flood event or other natural water flows through the site during all phases of the project. This should also include discussion of impacts to existing downstream mitigation sites and conservation areas established for previous regional projects by the San Diego County Water Authority, Metropolitan Transit System, and others. The use of fines as fill for final grading should also be analyzed in terms of the potential impact on infiltration rates and subsequent effects on plant growth relative to native habitat restoration and sediment use by native fossorial animals.

6. The Project Description of the NOP notes that the MUP issued by the County in 2000 for the previous golf course project continues to regulate use for the site and that initial site grading occurred under that MUP. The Department recommends that the status of the mitigation required in the original EIR filed for the issuance of the MUP be clarified in the SEIR and that any changes in mitigation requirements of the mitigation plan for the MUP under the previous EIR be analyzed for sufficiency for offsetting impacts of the current project.

General Comments

7. The Department has responsibility for wetland and riparian habitats. It is the policy of the Department to strongly discourage development in wetlands or conversion of wetlands to uplands. We oppose any development or conversion which would result in a reduction of wetland acreage or wetland habitat values, unless, at a minimum, project mitigation assures there will be "no net loss" of either wetland habitat values or acreage. Development and conversion include but are not limited to conversion to subsurface drains, placement of fill or building of structures within the wetland, and channelization or removal of materials from the streambed. All wetlands and watercourses, whether ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial, should be retained and provided with substantial setbacks which preserve the riparian and aquatic values and maintain their value to on-site and off-site wildlife populations. Mitigation measures to compensate for impacts to mature riparian corridors must be included in the SEIR and must compensate for the loss of function and value of a wildlife corridor.
 - a) The project area supports aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats; therefore, a jurisdictional delineation of the creeks and their associated riparian habitats should be included in the SEIR. The delineation should be conducted pursuant to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service wetland definition adopted by the Department.¹ Please note that some wetland and riparian habitats subject to the Department's authority may extend beyond the jurisdictional limits of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
 - b) The Department also has regulatory authority over activities in streams and/or lakes that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may

¹ Cowardin, Lewis M., et al. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

include associated riparian resources) of any river, stream, or lake or use material from a river, stream, or lake. For any such activities, the project applicant (or "entity") must provide written notification to the Department pursuant to section 1600 *et seq.* of the Fish and Game Code. Based on this notification and other information, the Department determines whether a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSA) with the applicant is required prior to conducting the proposed activities. The Department's issuance of a LSA for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a Responsible Agency. The Department as a Responsible Agency under CEQA may consider the local jurisdiction's (lead agency) Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report for the project. To minimize additional requirements by the Department pursuant to section 1600 *et seq.* and/or under CEQA, the document should fully identify the potential impacts to the stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments for issuance of the LSA.²

8. The Department considers adverse impacts to a species protected by the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), for the purposes of CEQA, to be significant without mitigation. As to CESA, take of any endangered, threatened, or candidate species that results from the project is prohibited, except as authorized by state law (Fish and Game Code, §§ 2080, 2085). Consequently, if the Project, Project construction, or any Project-related activity during the life of the Project will result in take of a species designated as endangered or threatened, or a candidate for listing under CESA, the Department recommends that the project proponent seek appropriate take authorization under CESA prior to implementing the project. Appropriate authorization from the Department may include an incidental take permit (ITP) or a consistency determination in certain circumstances, among other options (Fish and Game Code §§ 2080.1, 2081, subds. (b),(c)). Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, may require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of an ITP unless the project CEQA document addresses all project impacts to CESA-listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of an ITP. For these reasons, biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirements for a CESA ITP.
9. To enable the Department to adequately review and comment on the proposed project from the standpoint of the protection of plants, fish, and wildlife, we recommend the following information be included in the SEIR.
 - a) A complete discussion of the purpose and need for, and description of, the proposed project, including all staging areas and access routes to the construction and staging areas.

² A notification package for a LSA may be obtained by accessing the Department's web site at www.wildlife.ca.gov/habcon/1600.

- b) A range of feasible alternatives to ensure that alternatives to the proposed project are fully considered and evaluated; the alternatives should avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources, particularly wetlands (as the proposed project would result in significant impacts to wetland/riparian habitat within the San Diego River). Specific alternative locations should be evaluated in areas with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate.

Biological Resources within the Project's Area of Potential Effect

10. To provide a complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, sensitive, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats, the SEIR should include the following information.
 - a) Per CEQA Guidelines, section 15125(c), information on the regional setting that is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts, with special emphasis placed on resources that are rare or unique to the region.
 - b) A thorough, recent floristic-based assessment of special status plants and natural communities, following the Department's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (see <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/plant/>). The Department recommends that floristic, alliance-based and/or association-based mapping and vegetation impact assessments be conducted at the Project site and neighboring vicinity. The Manual of California Vegetation, second edition, should also be used to inform this mapping and assessment (Sawyer et al. 2008³). Adjoining habitat areas should be included in this assessment where site activities could lead to direct or indirect impacts offsite. Habitat mapping at the alliance level will help establish baseline vegetation conditions.
 - c) A current inventory of the biological resources associated with each habitat type on site and within the area of potential effect. The Department's California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento should be contacted at www.wildlife.ca.gov/biogeodata/ to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the Fish and Game Code.
 - d) An inventory of rare, threatened, endangered and other sensitive species on site and within the area of potential effect. Species to be addressed should include all those which meet the CEQA definition (see CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). This should include sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species. Seasonal variations in use of the project area should also be addressed. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, are required. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

³ Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf and J.M. Evens. 2009. A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition. California Native Plant Society Press, Sacramento.

Analyses of the Potential Project-Related Impacts on the Biological Resources

11. To provide a thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts, the following should be addressed in the SEIR.
 - a) A discussion of potential adverse impacts from lighting, noise, human activity, exotic species, and drainage should also be included. The latter subject should address: project-related changes on drainage patterns on and downstream of the project site; the volume, velocity, and frequency of existing and post-project surface flows; polluted runoff; soil erosion and/or sedimentation in streams and water bodies; and post-project fate of runoff from the project site. The discussions should also address the proximity of the extraction activities to the water table, whether dewatering would be necessary, and the potential resulting impacts on the habitat, if any, supported by the groundwater. Mitigation measures proposed to alleviate such impacts should be included.
 - b) Discussions regarding indirect project impacts on biological resources, including resources in nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, and any designated and/or proposed or existing reserve lands (e.g., preserve lands associated with a NCCP). Impacts on, and maintenance of, wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitats in adjacent areas, should be fully evaluated in the SEIR.
 - c) The zoning of areas for development projects or other uses that are nearby or adjacent to natural areas may inadvertently contribute to wildlife-human interactions. A discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce these conflicts should be included in the environmental document.
 - d) A cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines, section 15130. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts on similar plant communities and wildlife habitats.

Mitigation for the Project-related Biological Impacts

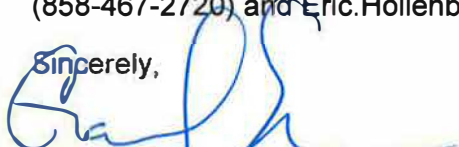
12. The SEIR should include measures to fully avoid and otherwise protect Rare Natural Communities from project-related impacts. The Department considers these communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance.
13. The SEIR should include mitigation measures for adverse project-related impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats. Mitigation measures should emphasize avoidance and reduction of project impacts. For unavoidable impacts, on-site habitat restoration or enhancement should be discussed in detail. If on-site mitigation is not feasible or would not be biologically viable and therefore not adequately mitigate the loss of biological functions and values, off-site mitigation through habitat creation and/or acquisition and preservation in perpetuity should be addressed.
14. For proposed preservation and/or restoration, the SEIR should include measures to perpetually protect the targeted habitat values from direct and indirect negative impacts.

The objective should be to offset the project-induced qualitative and quantitative losses of wildlife habitat values. Issues that should be addressed include restrictions on access, proposed land dedications, monitoring and management programs, control of illegal dumping, water pollution, increased human intrusion, etc.

15. The Department recommends that measures be taken to avoid project impacts to nesting birds. Migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (Title 50, § 10.13, Code of Federal Regulations). Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit take of all birds and their active nests including raptors and other migratory nongame birds (as listed under the Federal MBTA). Proposed project activities (including, but not limited to, staging and disturbances to native and nonnative vegetation, structures, and substrates) should occur outside of the avian breeding season which generally runs from February 1- September 1 (as early as January 1 for some raptors) to avoid take of birds or their eggs. If avoidance of the avian breeding season is not feasible, the Department recommends surveys by a qualified biologist with experience in conducting breeding bird surveys to detect protected native birds occurring in suitable nesting habitat that is to be disturbed and (as access to adjacent areas allows) any other such habitat within 300 feet of the disturbance area (within 500 feet for raptors). Project personnel, including all contractors working on site, should be instructed on the sensitivity of the area. Reductions in the nest buffer distance may be appropriate depending on the avian species involved, ambient levels of human activity, screening vegetation, or possibly other factors.
16. The Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.
17. Plans for restoration and revegetation should be prepared by persons with expertise in southern California ecosystems and native plant revegetation techniques. Each plan should include, at a minimum: (a) the location of the mitigation site; (b) the plant species to be used, container sizes, and seeding rates; (c) a schematic depicting the mitigation area; (d) planting schedule; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation on site; (g) specific success criteria; (h) a detailed monitoring program; (i) contingency measures should the success criteria not be met; and (j) identification of the party responsible for meeting the success criteria and providing for conservation of the mitigation site in perpetuity.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the referenced NOP. Questions regarding this letter and further coordination on these issues should be directed to Eric Hollenbeck at (858-467-2720) and Eric.Hollenbeck@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Gail K. Sevens
Environmental Program Manager
South Coast Region

ec: Eric Porter (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Scott Morgan (State Clearinghouse)

EL MONTE SAND MINE & NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

August 13, 2015 through September 14, 2015

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT SHEET

NOP Scoping Meeting August 26, 2015

Lakeside Community Center

9841 Vine Street

Lakeside, California 92040

RECEIVED
SEP 14 2015

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

Planning and
Development Services

I am eighty years old - a San Diego native and have been to El Monte Park for many years. I have also been aware there has been an infestation of Valley Fever in the El Monte Valley. It is to me an abomination that any person or persons would want to spread Valley Fever to wherever the sand would be relocated. And what for? Money! Where is their conscience? Where is their moral integrity? Where is their common sense? Leave the El Monte Valley alone!

(Attach additional pages as needed)

Carolyn Filipponi 9-14-15
Signature Date

Carolyn Filipponi
Print Name

MAIL or E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone#: (858) 694-3820
e-mail: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

3660 Bayside Walk
Address

San Diego *CA* *92109*
City State Zip Code

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

From: [Catherine Gorka](#)
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#); [Bennett, Jim](#)
Subject: El Monte sand mining, please add to my previous comments. Thank you.
Date: Monday, September 14, 2015 11:04:31 AM

Hi Robert and Jim,

Please make sure that their reports on air quality and noise is to the level for animals as well, they have better hearing and will be more impacted by the noise, spores, dust, diesel fumes and a lot of other things they will discover and create. Please note that my aviaries are supposedly 1500 ft from their project according to Crystal, so there is no filtering of anything, it goes directly to my parrots, my life. Please attach this to my previous emails/comments on this project that we are against.

Thank you.

14560 Willow Rd,
Lakeside, CA 92040

Catherine Gorka
www.Pamperedparrots.com

Planning and Development Services

Date

Sept 10, 2015

Reference:

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

Attention Jim Bennett

5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92123

RECEIVED
SEP 14 2015Planning and
Development Services

Dear Mr Bennett,

I am writing to offer my thoughts and ideas about the scope and nature of the environmental impacts that will be caused by the El Monte Valley Sand Mining Project. I ask that these concerns be thoroughly considered in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

This project will negatively impact:

All of the Environment! There are a Nesting Golden Eagles that have come back for generations also, being Native American and a Nations clan Chief, Our land has been taken & "raped" for generations - There are many "artifacts" stemming from a "Village" situation, which makes this land SACRED! Also, all the trees, plants, flowers, which the bees help pollinate all these plants etc....

We are mostly farmers here that like to ride our horses and walk our dogs & hike these land! Now, lets talk about the water - WATER IS LIFE! this project will contaminate & take away life for many & Valley people! What about our kids and our children? This Project is Bogus!

Sincerely,


Chief
Windspiritdrum
Donna

Signature

Print Name

Address

City

14706 El Monte Rd Lakeside

Phone: 619-443-5826

Email: Windspiritdrum@yahoo.com

☐ Please check if you comments extend to the back side of the page.

Notes on Back

Mindy - Tell her - Notes
appendix G

- Dorset trail's

- Golden Eagles, Coyotes, Ravens, Hawks, Fox - Rabbit
eye -

- Native Antifacts

- Species - in seasons also

- "Final"

Environmental Impact Reports

15 yr. Project they are trying to get the
permit for - Wrong

Valley Fever

Water Contaminates

- Drought

We are members of the Sierra Club
also

Show me a Sand Mine that has
EVER did what they promise.

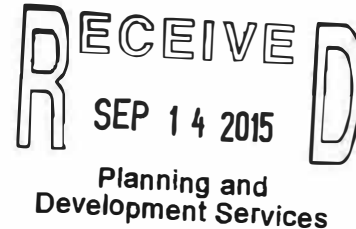
- Climate change?



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

September 14, 2015

Mr. Jim Bennett, Groundwater Geologist
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Drive, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123



Dear Mr. Bennett:

Subject: Notice of Preparation: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve, PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B.

We have reviewed the Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report dated August 13, 2015, and appreciate the opportunity to comment. The proposed project (Project) includes a sand mining operation to extract approximately 12 million cubic yards of mineral resources over a 15-year period with an additional four years for reclamation activities. As mining activities are completed in phases, the site will be progressively reclaimed and restored as open space with an open water pond and recreational trail easements. The size of the project is approximately 188.6 acres on a 167 acre mining footprint; 18 acres of previously excavated golf course pond that would be backfilled and the remaining acreage for haul roads and trails. The land is currently owned by the Helix Water District. The Project operations would include an aggregate processing facility, all support structures, buildings and storage containers. Water will be obtained from on-site wells and ponds once operations extend below the water table. Approximately 132 acre feet of water will be used per year. The Project is located along El Monte and Willow Roads in the El Monte Valley, in the Lakeside area, downstream of the City's El Capitan Reservoir, along the San Diego River.

The City of San Diego (City) is in agreement with the issues to be addressed in the forthcoming Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). Additional issues to be evaluated are summarized below:

City of San Diego's Pueblo Water Rights

The SEIR should evaluate the potentially significant impact on the City's Pueblo water rights. The City possesses Pueblo rights in the San Diego Formation and the San Diego River. A Pueblo right is the "paramount" right of an American city as successor of a Spanish or Mexican pueblo to the use of water naturally occurring within the old pueblo limits for the use of the inhabitants of the city. (*Los Angeles v. Pomeroy* (1899) 124 Cal. 597; *Los Angeles v. San Fernando* (1975) 14 Cal.3d 199, 251; *Cal. Farm Bureau Federation v. State Water Resources Control Bd.* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 421.)

Public Utilities Department

525 B Street, Suite 300, MS 906 • San Diego, CA 92101-4409

Tel (619) 533-7595



This right attaches to the use of all surface and groundwaters of the streams that flowed through the original pueblo, including their tributaries, from their source to their mouth. (*San Diego v. Cuyamuca Water Co.* (1930) 209 Cal. 105, 151 (*San Diego*).) The City's Pueblo right thus attaches to the waters of the San Diego River System, including percolating groundwater that is interconnected with the San Diego River.

For any source of water to which its Pueblo right attaches, the City is entitled to take "to the extent of the needs of its inhabitants." (*Feliz v. Los Angeles* (1881) 58 Cal. 73, 80; *San Diego, supra*, 209 Cal. 105 at pp. 164-165.) As a Pueblo water right holder, the City thus has the highest priority right to use as much of the native flow of the San Diego River as is reasonably necessary to meet the City's present and future needs. Furthermore, the Pueblo right is superior to virtually every other right and cannot be lost. (*Ibid.*; *Los Angeles v. Glendale* (1943) 23 Cal.2d 68, 74-79.) Under the law of water rights, the County or Project developers may not take any action that affects the amount of groundwater or surface water within the San Diego River Groundwater Basin (Basin) if the effect of that action would deprive the City of its reasonable and beneficial use of the water supply guaranteed under its Pueblo right. The right allows the City to manage and control these waters for its needs, and the City intends to rely on this right to control any space in the Basin that would have recharged with native water were it not for the property owner or user's use or modification of that space.

The City is presently assessing the development potential of all its groundwater resources. While the City has no impending plans to develop this resource, it does reserve its right to consider and/or develop any and all available groundwater resources. As a consequence, no activity should be approved on the subject site that would jeopardize the City's ability to develop groundwater resources near the subject site.

Groundwater Supply, Storage, Surface Flow, and Water Quality

A thorough evaluation to disclose the Project's potentially significant groundwater effects is needed. Modeling should be done to demonstrate the effect on groundwater recharge, discharge, and surface water flows. The evaluation should include Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) requirements for the reclamation plan in the impact and cumulative effects analysis. If results indicate the Project will have an adverse effect on water surface flows, groundwater storage, quality or quantity, including the City's future water supply pursuant to its Pueblo right, the SEIR must describe mitigation measures and alternatives to the Project capable of avoiding or substantially lessening those impacts. Potential mitigation should be evaluated and discussed with the City of San Diego.

The City is concerned that the Project's removal of more than 12 million cubic yards of sand, which is the medium that holds groundwater in the Basin, could reduce groundwater storage and recharge and degrade groundwater quality.

It is reasonable to assume that the loss of such a potentially significant amount of the water-bearing medium may substantially reduce groundwater storage and degrade water quality. To what extent could future siltation of the final ponds reduce groundwater permeability?

The Project should also address the potential to significantly adversely affect groundwater levels, which is not the same issue as the loss of storage capacity. The analysis should consider the effect on groundwater levels from operation of the mine and to biological resources including individually significant or cumulatively considerable effect on groundwater levels or storage during operations or from evaporation losses following closure and reclamation.

With regard to groundwater and surface water quality, the investigation should address the potential for groundwater and surface water degradation as a result of project operations, including pollutants from heavy earth moving equipment, vehicles, and material transport over the projected 15 years of operation. A Work Plan would be useful to assess how slurry will be used on-site and determine any groundwater impacts.

The NOP also discussed future recreational uses of the site including trails. These trails will connect with other major trails in this area and include uses by equestrians. It is unclear how additional salt and nutrient loading from increased equestrian use could affect water quality. Evaluation of this issue should include a manure and waste management plan to be implemented to reduce potential water quality impacts. Regional stormwater regulations do not address salt and nutrient loading at the level needed to fully protect drinking source water reservoirs.

Consistency with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

The SEIR should discuss the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the applicability to the Project. The SGMA requires development of groundwater sustainability plans that consider, among other things, potential effects to hydrologically connected surface waters. The San Diego River Valley Basin, where the Project would be located, is categorized as a Medium Priority Basin designated by the California Department of Water Resources, indicating it is an area of concern to the State for potential groundwater depletion and associated impacts. The City will be developing a Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan in accordance with State Law. Before deciding whether to authorize the Project, the County should evaluate and understand its potential effects on the Project's future viability.

Lastly, the City is a designated monitoring entity for the Basin for the California Statewater Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program, and continues to monitor the groundwater elevations in the Basin. Therefore, if the Project is approved, the applicable permits should include that the monthly and yearly monitoring reports be submitted to the Public Utilities Department for review and comment.

September 14, 2015

Cumulative Impacts

In light of the potentially significant individual and cumulative impacts from past, present, and future mining projects within the Basin, the City requests the SEIR evaluate the potential means of avoiding or mitigating effects to the City's water supply and exercise of its Pueblo right. Assess impacts to groundwater and water quality including those from nearby projects and the loss of due to evaporation from the final ponds as described above.

Conclusion

The City is committed to protecting its groundwater resources and preserving its established Pueblo rights throughout the Basin. The City therefore insists that these significant, adverse environmental impacts be fully examined and mitigated to its satisfaction as discussed above.

Should you have any questions, please contact Principal Water Resources Specialist, George Adrian, P.E. at (619) 533-4680 or GAdrian@sanidiego.gov, or Jeffery Pasek, Watershed Manager, at (619) 533-7599 or JPasek@sanidiego.gov.

Sincerely,



Lan C. Wiborg
Deputy Director
Long-Range Planning & Water Resources Division

LCW/vs

cc: Ray Palmucci, Deputy City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney
Myra Herrmann, Senior Planner, Planning Department
George Adrian, Principal Water Resources Specialist, Public Utilities Department
Jeffery Pasek, Watershed Manager, Public Utilities Department

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: sand mining in the El Monte Valley

From: dwsullivanxx@aol.com [mailto:dwsullivanxx@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 11:52 AM

To: Bennett, Jim

Subject: sand mining in the El Monte Valley

Hello Jim,

I am writing in reference to **PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B**

I am a Lakeside, CA resident who has questions about the environmental impact sand mining would have in El Monte Valley. The proposal by the so called "El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve" raises several questions.

- 1) How much damage will the San Mining Company do to the agricultural viability of the land they build their operation on?
- 2) Will sand mining have any degrading effects on the El Monte Valley aquifer and wells used by both animals and humans? If so, how much?
- 3) How much water does the Sand Mining Company plan to use on a monthly basis when they reach full operation?
- 4) Will the water used by the Sand Mining Company be contaminated by chemicals or other mining runoff?
- 5) Will the Sand Mining Company interfere with or degrade animal habitat?
- 6) How will animals be able to traverse the El Monte Valley with a Sand Mining Company in full operation?
- 7) Will the Sand Mining facility impact the local community in terms of noise pollution from mining, blasting, and quarry trucks?

Thank you,

David Sullivan

11275 Manzanita Rd

Lakeside, CA 92040

619 561-0887

dwsullivanxx@aol.com

Deborah L Montgomery
11525 Moreno Ave.
Lakeside, CA 92040
September 14, 2015

Mr. Hingtgen
Department of Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Re: PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR for the above referenced project. I live near, and have hiked and ridden in, El Monte Valley many times and am aware that this project may have many environmental impacts, not only to the valley itself, but to the surrounding community.

During the preparation of the EIR, please make sure to fully address possible impacts on all aspects of:

- Handling of hazardous waste remaining in the soil from building the dam many years ago.
- Bridge weight limits, weight and vibration damage from heavily loaded trucks crossing the bridges in Lakeside.
- Hours of operation, noise impact to surrounding community.
- Lighting impact to the surrounding community.
- Spilling/leaking of sand on the roads causing accidents.
- Impact on traffic and timing getting through lights.
- Ground vibration impacts due to the mining, washing, and processing of aggregate.
- Greenhouse gases associated with aggregate mining and cement manufacture.
- Dust impact from disturbing a site known to have Valley Fever.
- Impacts to local wildlife such as bats, raptors, owls, fox, raccoons, wild cats, insects, frogs, etc.
- Irreversible damage to the aquifer.
- Contamination and impact of evaporation of the aquifer caused by opening it to the elements.
- Impact to wells and all dependent on the aquifer, including wildlife.

- West Nile increase due to more open water.
- Road damage and repair.
- Visual changes from a beautiful landscape to torn up dirt, trucks, cranes, and dust.
- Damage to established eco system and endangered animals within the valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Montgomery", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deborah L Montgomery

Secretary, Lakeside Community Planning Group
Secretary, Lakeside Frontier Riders
Concerned Resident of Moreno Valley, Lakeside
619-857-0958
dlnx2@cox.net

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: Please Stop the Sand Mine Project in El Monte Valley

From: Ellen Russell [<mailto:gothicfairytale85@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 1:32 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: Please Stop the Sand Mine Project in El Monte Valley

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

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed sand mine in the El Monte Valley, being operated by the El Monte Sand Mine & Nature Preserve.

If the valley is mined, then the Valley Fever fungal spores will be scattered into the air. Several of my family members, including myself are asthmatics. We frequently visit loved ones who live in the El Monte Valley. It is troubling to think of the physical, emotional, and financial hardships that this illness will cause on our loved ones and their community. I believe that it would be irresponsible to allow the sand mine in El Monte Valley with the prior knowledge of the presence of this serious illness in the valley's soil. Please do everything you can to prevent this potentially harmful sand mine project from happening.

Thanks for your time,

Ellen Russell

Ellen Russell
8750 Mellmanor Dr. Apt. #59
La Mesa, CA 91942

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

Subject: El Monte Sand Mine & Nature Preserve PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

September 14, 2015

Dear Mr. Bennett,

The subject of my letter is in regards to the proposed sand mine in the El Monte Valley being operated by the El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve. To follow is a list of my concerns about this project and I will cover each individually in this document. My expectation is that your department will take careful consideration of my concerns when completing the EIR and hold the El Monte Sand Mine & Nature Preserve accountable for answering each environmental challenge presented.

My first concern is the destruction of thousands of years of nature at work as illustrated by the photo below of the El Monte Valley as viewed from the West. This is the perspective from my home and I believe gives a fairly accurate outline of the 100' deep sand mine that is proposed.

- What other structures or out buildings will be needed to clean the sand, maintain the heavy equipment, etc.?

The claim that the El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve could dig a 100' deep pit and somehow reclaim nature that took thousands of years to create is completely ludicrous. There is not a single case in San Diego County where any sand mine/ reclamation project has ever been completed. There are two reasons as to why this has been the case. One, there is no system for accountability on the company's part. No accountability to follow the plan that they set for or accountability that they must complete the work that is proposed. The second reason for this is that it would be impossible for any company to rebuild what it has taken nature millions of years to create. Especially after ripping a 200-acre by 100' deep hole in the earth. The impact to nature will be overwhelming and ruined for many generations. Nature that has evolved so perfectly cannot be recreated by man, and should be reason enough for the company's not passing the requirements set forth in the EIR.

My family moved to the El Monte Valley for it's peace and natural beauty, which will certainly be destroyed should the project be approved, at the very least, for the next 15 years. The value of my property is largely based on the view from my home.

- Who will be responsible for the decline in my properties value?

- What accountability will the mining company be held to and who is going to police them to insure that they are ever going to what they propose?

With no accountability there should be no mine.

I am very concerned about the Health Effects that will be created by the proposed mining of sand from the El Monte Valley. One of which is Valley Fever.

- How will the threat of Valley Fever be contained, and if contracted who will be responsible for lost wages due to illness, medical costs, and continued treatment and monitoring of the disease?

Valley fever is an infection caused by a fungus called *Coccidioides*. The fungus is found in the soil and the spores can get into the air when the soil is disrupted by farming, construction, wind or other activities. When spores are inhaled, valley fever can result. Anyone can get valley fever, but it most commonly occurs in people who are frequently exposed to soil and dust in areas where the fungi are present (endemic areas) and in adults aged 60 and older. The most common way for someone to get valley fever is by inhaling the fungal spores that are in the air following a disturbance in the soil in which they live. Some people may be at higher risk of developing severe infection, these groups include:

- People who have weakened immune systems or have had an organ transplant
- People who are taking medications such as corticosteroids or tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-inhibitors
- Pregnant women
- People who have diabetes
- Certain ethnicities, including Black, Filipino, Hispanic, Native American and Asian. *

***The description above** is from <http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/diseases/valley-fever>

Valley Fever is known to exist in the soil of the El Monte Valley and will certainly be disturbed by the mining that will take place. Not only from the removal of the soil from the ground, but by the movement of excavating equipment and trucks that are doing the work. Considering where I live and the location of the El Monte Valley, a Santa Ana wind could carry the disease to 100,000s of people south, including my family and to the west of the valley including the communities of Lakeside, Santee, El Cajon and San Diego.

* I am very concerned about the environmental impacts that will be created through the use of water being used to clean the sand on the site. It has been stated that over 43 million gallons of water will be used in the first year of the 15-year project alone. The water will come from wells drilled on site. Both the short term and long term effects of this kind of water usage will effect not only the inhabitants of the valley, all of which rely on well water for every day use and agriculture, but on the rest of San Diego County.

- Will there be a baseline measurement taken of all the wells in the valley to insure that the plant is not destroying peoples livelihoods and lifestyles?

- Will the sand mine be paying, an impartial contractor, to measure and tests wells on a regular basis for both water levels and contamination?

- What tests will be done during the length of the project to determine down river contamination?

- How will the runoff effect the river below and all the way to the ocean? How will this be monitored?

* I am very concerned about the vehicle traffic that will increase due to the proposed 2 to 500 truckloads of sand that will leave the valley each day. El Monte Road is a small two-lane road and the only access in and out of the valley. The traffic must exit off of El Monte Road onto Lake Jennings Park road to the South or North down Maplevue St. through Lakeside. The resident's inability to leave the valley quickly due to fire will be limited by the truck traffic.

- How will this be accounted for?

Lake Jennings park road is extremely busy and there have been several fatality accidents on the road without the increased truck traffic. There will be a negative impact on young drivers at El Capitan High School and bicyclists on El Monte Road as well.

- What will be done to measure the increased traffic and to insure that safe levels of traffic are not exceeded on any given day or at any given time?

- What will be the rate of inspection to insure safe numbers of vehicles?

- What will the cost be to the County to maintain the roadways after the heavy trucks and equipment do damage?

* I am very concerned about the pollution that the sand mine will create. The pollution will have a negative impact on the environment, people's health and serene nature of the valley. The ozone and dust particulates created by the trucks and heavy equipment will have a negative impact on children, athletes and the elderly. The long-term effects on the environment include global warming due to the hydrocarbons being put off from the vehicles and equipment operating more than 10 hours per day. We will no longer be able to open our windows to fresh air due to the dust that will be created. The cost of running air and heat year round in our home is unaffordable.

- Who will pay for the increased expense so that our health is not compromised? This is not considering those in the valley that do not have central air and heat. Running my air conditioner is also detrimental to the environment and will increase the amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere that cause global warming. Multiply that times the total amount of households in the El Monte Valley, Blossom Valley and surrounding areas. SDG&E should also be concerned during a high usage alert when I have no choice, but to leave my air conditioner running due to the pollution and dust in the air.

- Will the APCD be consulted to conduct studies in regards to the pollution that will be created?

I believe that they would be interested in the run off of chemicals and contaminated dust particles as they end up in the storm water system as they result of trucks and heavy equipment.

- How will the dust and pollution issues be resolved? Water, a scarce resource will obviously be used in massive amounts.

- Is the mining of sand for profit in our backyard a reasonable enterprise during a time of drought?

- What are the long and short-term effects to the watershed? Sand is already being imported from Arizona and Mexico where the environmental impacts are less. I would suggest reading the study done by San Diego State on sand mines. This is the link: http://threeissues.sdsu.edu/three_issues_sandminingfacts01.html

* I am very concerned about contamination of the wells in the area as well as the aquifer. The contamination of wells throughout the valley due to oil spills and chemicals being used to control dust and clean sand is a concern.

- Where are the trucks going to refuel?

- How will the fuel get to the proposed mining site? Fuel spills are likely. What steps will be taken to insure that when fuel spills happen they will be reported and cleaned up appropriately?

- Is the intention that an enterprise so large self police itself? With truck traffic planned at up to 500 trips per day there will need to be thousands of gallons of fuel on the mining site at any one time. That fuel also needs to be trucked in.

- What steps will be taken to mitigate the danger of driving large fuel tankers through residential areas and past local schools around Lakeside? With access to large amounts of fuel and agricultural fertilizers nearby, are concerns about acts of terrorism being addressed?

* I am very concerned about the noise that the sand mine will create in the valley. The valley is essentially a funnel for sound. I can hear a dog bark from over 2 miles away at my neighbor's home just east of us. When the mining project at Hanson pond was operating, trucks entered the valley at 5:30 am and the operators of those trucks left them to idle until the mine opened at 7:00 am each morning. The noise was disruptive to both nature and the residents of the valley. The decibel levels coming from the plant as well as the trucks will cause a negative impact on both humans and animals. My right to live in a peaceful valley will be disrupted along with everyone that lives here.

- What sound analysis will be done to insure that noise levels are not loud enough to ruin the nature of the valley?

- Will those levels be monitored daily and throughout the length of the project?

* I am very concerned about the loss of habitat for many species of animals during the mining phases of the project. The El Monte Valley is home to tree frogs, raccoons, quail, road runners, owls, raptors, egret, yellow warblers, the checker spot butterfly, elderberry longhorn beetles, willow fly catcher, red diamond back rattle snake, rosy boa, great grey horned owls, San Diego ring-necked snake, Laguna skipper, Zayante band winged grasshopper, Quino checker spot butterfly, Swallow tail butterfly, Ceanothus moth, several species of sensitive bats, horned lizards, deer, bobcats, golden eagles, redheaded woodpeckers, and endangered species like the least Bell's vireos, arroyo toad and gnat catchers. The valley is also home to many species of plants including oak trees, Sycamores, Chapparal plants, Willows, and Elderberry trees. These plants and animals will either be destroyed or displaced due to the mining. This is a fairly complete list, but a study should be done over several years of both drought and rain to determine all of the species that exist and are active in the valley.

- Some species lie dormant in times of drought so will this be taken into account when determining the length of the study?

The valley is an important wildlife corridor. The mining operation will completely block the valley for the wildlife.

- What will be done to ensure that wildlife has a though fare through the valley?

- What will be done to replace the flora that will be destroyed?

- Will there be a count done of all the plants to insure, that at minimum, the valley will be restored to its current state?

- Will the animals be counted to ensure that their numbers do not diminish as a result of the mining operation?

- How will he sand mining company be held accountable to insure that the land is reclaimed and returned to a better state than it is now?

- Will the sand mining company be granted an extension on their 15-year lease if they have not followed the plan to the letter?

- How will the funding be guaranteed for reclamation once the sand is removed?

It is my opinion that this will be extremely difficult due to the LLC nature of the company itself. There is no accountability. As mentioned earlier, no sand mining company has ever been held accountable for restoration in San Diego County.

* I am very concerned about the loss of trails and access to the area. The El Monte Valley is a scenic destination for horse riders, bicyclists, and hikers. Reducing the amount of recreational space people need to lead active lifestyles and healthy lives will be detrimental

to their health. Don't we want people to be healthier? The health costs to the County are already enormous.

- Will the sand mine operation be responsible for those costs?

- Will their contribution to County coffers offset the health related costs to the County?

- Will the county insure that the mining company does what it says and incorporate trails throughout the term of the project?

- Who will monitor this and hold the sand mining company accountable?

* I am very concerned about the water that will be exposed and pooled from digging down to the aquifer. Water warming in the sun is prime breeding ground for vector diseases such as West Nile Virus and Dengue fever, which are carried by mosquitoes. Other concerns include unmonitored public access to the ponds that will be created through mining. The steep sides will be dangerous and drowning may occur. Public safety is paramount and will be jeopardized by the mine. Hanson pond is a good example of how a sand mine turned pond is left in disrepair and unmonitored. Transients have turned it into a campground. The result has been an increased level in crime and a safety concern for my family. Children sneak into the site through fencing in disrepair to swim and fish in the lake.

- Has testing been done on the water in the pond to determine if it is safe?

- If it is not safe, is this not a good example of what we are to expect from the proposed mine operation?

* I am very concerned about the loss of life and property should a flood occur during the mining. Digging a 200 acre, 100' deep pit will create a low spot in the valley where the floodwaters will rush taking with it property, homes, livestock and potentially human life. A similar scenario happened the last time water went over the top of the dam at the El Capitan reservoir. A local valley man lost over 9 acres in the resulting flood. His 9 acres ended up in the bottom of the sand mine of that time.

- What engineering studies will be done to ensure that this scenario is not repeated?

There will be another flood and property will be lost if the mining operation is approved.

* I very am concerned about the loss of Native American artifacts as I have a degree in art and hold these things dear. Native Americans have lived in the valley for thousands of years. Many people have found ancient pottery and tools in the valley.

- What will be done to mitigate the loss of our archaeological artifacts?

- Who will ensure that the mining company reports all artifacts that are exposed?

* Lastly and most importantly, I am very concerned that past EIRs for sand mining and golf course projects will be used to create this new EIR for the proposed sand mine. This is a new project with different scope in a new time and the EIR should contain all new findings.

- How can we as citizens be sure that the old information is relevant and how do we know that what information is used from old EIRs is appropriate or complete?

This is a new project, with new people in a new time. It would be a mistake to not start with a completely new EIR just to save time and money at the County.

I am expecting that all of the concerns I have pointed out will be covered in the new EIR and that you will do your best to insure that the natural beauty of the valley is preserved and the health and safety needs of everyone in the El Monte Valley region are met.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Erin Garth

13328 Maplevue St.
Lakeside, CA 92040
619-609-6933

Reference:

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001016B, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

Attention: Robert Hingtgen

5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310

San Diego, CA. 92123

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to offer my thoughts and ideas about the scope and nature of the environmental impacts that can and will be caused by the El Monte Valley Sand Mining Project. I ask that these concerns be thoroughly Considered in the preparation of the Environmental Statement for this project.

I am concerned that this project will negatively impact the following:

- A. The removal of the sand in the Valley floor will be a concern for the residents who depend on the aquifer in this sand who have wells. I am concerned that this will cause the water table to be contaminated from the dripping and spilling of oil and fuel from the excavating equipment. There is the threat that this contaminated water will cause the wells in the area to become contaminated also.
- B. The removal of the sand, which now is covering the water table, will expose this water table to the elements of nature. The exposed water will become a habitat for the mosquitoes which are carriers of the West Nile virus. It will also expose the water to become contaminated with bacteria not common to the aquifer which is now covered by the sand. This will cause the water table the wells depend on to also be contaminated.
- C. I also have a concern about the disturbing of the sand in the Valley which is known to be infected with the Valley Fever Fungus. This can be carried in the dust created when the sand is dug up, loaded and hauled out. My concern is that the dust carrying the spores would travel with the winds blowing to the west and would expose the children and parents at the Lakeside Little League fields, the people who show horses at the Riding club corrals, the students at El Capitan High school and as the dust blows all those in contact with it. I have been familiar with this valley since 1958. I traveled Willow Road many times visiting friends. In 1972 I purchased my property, on Willow Rd, and built my house, in which I now reside. In the early times there were signs posted at the end of the County Maintained portion of Willow Road stating, "**Danger Valley Fever.**" Those signs were posted in a portion of land to the left side of the dirt road which was also known to have misc Indian Artifacts. The signs were, evidently, posted to warn the people digging for these artifacts that they might become infected with Valley Fever when digging for these artifacts. The signs have been removed but the threat of Valley Fever in the area has not. When the golf course was in progress the land to the right of the road a cap of was soil added over the existing surface. This area was covered up to preserve the Indian Artifacts discovered there as well as covering the area which might have had the Valley Fever Fungus..

- D. The removal of the sand exposes the water to the sun and wind which contributes to the evaporation of the surface area of water. I feel this evaporation will cause the water table to become shallower, over time, and will cause the wells in the area to be in jeopardy of not having that water supply available for use. This is not good especially since, at this time, we have a drought situation. The water table is much lower for the wells. There are some who are now experiencing a shortage of water supply without the sand mining having its effect.
- E. In using El Monte Road for the route to transfer the sand out of the Valley, by the number of trucks calculated for this sand removal, it is going to cause the traffic on El Monte Road to become more congested. This will be a night mare for the people who now use the road for access to their homes, the recreational boaters who use El Capitan Reservoir for fishing and water recreation as well as the people who use El Monte Park for picnicking. The Park offers many avenues for recreation, hiking, mountain climbing, sightseeing and just to get away from city life. This congestion will cause the congestion overflow to be transferred to Willow Road, on the other side of the valley. Willow Road is a private road, not a county maintained road. This road is an easement road for the property owners. This requires the road to be maintained by the homeowners. This overflow traffic will cause this expense to be a burden on the homeowners. When the Golf Course Project was in operation the traffic on Willow Road coming across from El Monte Road was quite Evident. How will this be remedied?
- F. I also have a concern about the sand being removed so close to Willow Road. When we get rain water running off of the rocks on the mountains and it runs down the valleys and floods across Willow Road, at various locations. When this sand is removed, from the area next to the road, what will keep the soil from being eroded into the pit created from the removal of the sand? I have in the past seen this happen and the sand now lies in an elevation that keeps erosion from happening. The pit, being excavated as deep as shown, will cause the water to erode the soil as it flows into the pit. Mother Nature has been doing this for many years in this valley accounting for the flat plain the valley floor now has. This erosion will cause a problem with the road bed as well as the properties that are close to the pit area.
- G. I also have a concern about the completion of the trails and restoration that is supposed to be made when the operation is completed. The Golf Course project is a great example of what happens when the project is not completed. What guarantee is there that the sand mining project won't do the same thing? Same people same problem? Maybe they need to put good faith money up front in a Bond of Guarantee so that the funds will be available if they fail to fulfill the contract.

Sincerely,



Erryl Sloan

14316 Willow Rd Lakeside, Ca. 92040

H. House Phone: 619-561-4593 / Cell: 619-933-3393 erryl14316@gmail.com

From: [Gary Toppi](#)
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2 & PDS2015-RP-15-001 El Monte Sand Mine & Nature Preserve
Date: Monday, September 14, 2015 11:42:38 AM

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR for the above referenced project. My partner and I have boarded horses and continue to do so in the El Monte Valley since 1998. We have enjoyed the beauty and tranquility of the valley for over 16 years as recently as this weeking, taking two of our horses on a ride along the "Flume Trail". We am very aware that this project may have many environmental impacts. During the preparation of the EIR, please make sure to fully address:

- Visual impacts to a scenic valley that is a popular recreational destination.
 - The impact of permanent loss of agricultural potential of this rich alluvial Valley.
 - Greenhouses gases associated with aggregate mining and cement manufacture.
 - Issues associated with interruption of an important wildlife corridor.
 - Hazards associated with particulate emissions from a site known to contain Valley Fever, and also hazardous to wildlife, domestic stock, bird life and humans associated with West Nile Virus.
 - Impacts to the variety of native plants and animals some which are listed as endangered.
 - Impacts to soil organisms.
 - Impacts to the aquifer, wells, and habitat and wildlife dependent on the aquifer.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Hazardous road conditions with the exponential growth in traffic on our public road systems
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Impacts to fire evacuation and safety to the residents that live in the El Monte Valley area as there is essentially "one way in and one way out".
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Impacts to the environment regarding fuel storage for the Sand Mining project.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Toppi, (Electronic Signature)

Gary R. Toppi, DMD MSD
1679 Naranca Avenue El Cajon, CA 92019
858-663-4540 (Cell)
grt71cuda@aol.com

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: Environmental Impact Report for El Monte valley

From: grazina99@aol.com [mailto:grazina99@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 2:07 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: Environmental Impact Report for El Monte valley

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIR for the above referenced project. I have been to El Monte Valley several times as my daughter and her husband live there and am aware that this project may have many environmental impacts. During the preparation of the EIR, please make sure to fully address:

- visual impacts to a scenic valley that is a popular recreational destination.
- the impact of permanent loss of agricultural potential of this rich alluvial Valley.
- greenhouse gases associated with aggregate mining and cement manufacture and constant heavy equipment traffic.
- issues associated with interruption of an important wildlife corridor.
- hazards associated with particulate emissions from a site known to contain Valley Fever, and also hazardous to wildlife, domestic stock, bird life and humans associated with West Nile Virus
- impacts to soil organisms.
- impacts to the aquifer, wells, and habitat and wildlife dependant on the aquifer.

Sincerely,

Grazina Tompauskas
88 Pinon Drive
Swall Meadows, CA 93514

760-387-2127

Concerned Mother of an El Monte Valley Resident

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: El Monte Valley

From: Eatherton, Gwen [<mailto:geatherton@ucsd.edu>]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 3:00 PM

To: Bennett, Jim

Subject: El Monte Valley

Planning and Development Services

Attn:Jim Bennett

Dear Mr.Bennett , I am writing regarding my opposition to the Sand Mining Project proposed in the El Monte Valley.

There are multiple concerns with this proposed project.

California is under a mandated water conservation plan. How can we justify the probable destruction of our wells to support this project?

Proposed ponds would provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Article in last weeks UT addressed this very real and deadly issue.

How will this be monitored and by whom?

We have received info that 440 trucks will be coming in and out of our two lane road for Eight hours a day/Five days per week for at least the next Fifteen years. I can imagine the impact this will have on the valley BUT a new and complete EIR must be done. Why has this not been mandated?

Where will the proposed water plant be located? Who will monitor the operation and noise levels? How often will it be monitored and consequences for violations?

Please explain to me how Michael Beck can be part of the Planning Commission with voting rights AND an investor in this proposed project that stands to make a fortune from it. Even if he were to recuse himself the board has already been contaminated.

I have lived in this valley for over 20 years. Own two homes. Sometimes worked 2 jobs to be able to live here. As retirement approaches I see a company that wants to come in to line their pockets and rape the land I love.

I have heard multiple reasons this project should never be allowed to go thru. I am looking for one valid reason that anyone in this valley would bless this project.

Sincerely,
Gwen Eatherton
14755 El Monte Rd
Lakeside,Ca 92040

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: El Monte Sand Mine

From: Jeff Crocker [<mailto:jeff.crocker@live.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 4:04 PM

To: Bennett, Jim

Subject: RE: El Monte Sand Mine

Hello Again Jim,

I forgot to mention that in the meetings I have attended regarding this, there has yet to be ONE person (let alone more) to mention a SINGLE POSITIVE THING that will come from this project. Isn't that enough on its own to speak volumes as to why this should not even be considered? Our community should not be ruined just to make one company rich!

Thanks Again,
Jeff

From: jeff.crocker@live.com

To: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

Subject: El Monte Sand Mine

Date: Mon, 14 Sep 2015 16:00:06 -0700

To: Jim Bennett

County of San Diego Planning and Development Services

From: Jeff Crocker

Lakeside Resident

9395 Harritt Rd.

Space 61

Lakeside, CA 92040

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am writing you regarding the significant concerns I have with the proposed El Monte Sand Mine Project. I have a number of objections to the project. The first would be that of the fact that this valley does have Valley Fever spores - I know first hand because my dog became deathly ill in 2010 (requiring \$5000 in hospital bills) and still suffers from respiratory problems today. He contracted this while playing at the barn where we keep our horses on El Monte Road. Valley Fever is spread when soil, containing the spores, is disturbed and becomes airborne. It affects humans and animals and can cause severe health issues as well as death! The spores can spread for many miles when disturbed. I live less than one mile from the proposed site - I fear my families health. As I stated, we board three horses on El Monte Road at a barn that borders exactly where the mining is proposed to start. I fear even more for my horses lives, and my own while I spend a great amount of time there weekly.

I have heard that the sand mining company's proposal for mitigation of the spread of the spores is to spray the sand with water. This is absurd for a number of reasons. First there is no way they will be able to guarantee no spores will become airborne. They will be moving millions of tons of soil, it just cannot be done without some dust. Not to mention, where is this water going to come from? We are in the middle of a major drought! It seems they plan to use the water from the river - which is what every home and farm relies on for drinking water. Worse yet is that if they water down the soil as they dig it up, this causes the spores to multiply! Is the Sand Mining Company prepared to pay for everyone's personal health care costs and pet's medical bills caused by health issues created by mining a KNOWN hazardous area? Or are they going to pay for us to be relocated to a safe area where we can board our horses while they mine the land?

Even if the water to be used did not come from the river water table, they proposed mine will significantly disturb the water table of the entire valley. I believe the wells will begin to dry up because the water will fill the areas where mining is taking place. If they don't dry up they will be contaminated by the mining operation. Either scenario will make all of the property in the valley unusable and completely devalued. Is the Sand Mining Company prepared to buy everyone's property at their pre-mining value?

Another objection to the mining project stems from the basic question of "why would you want to destroy such a beautiful valley?". Sure they claim they plan to "restore it", but it will take hundreds of years for nature to truly restore it. This valley is designated as a "Scenic Road". It will no longer be a "Scenic Road" - It will be an "EYE SORE"! I would object to the mining even if it was only one year - but they are proposing 15 years (and possible extension). Most of the residents of this area won't be lively enough to even see/enjoy the promised restoration. We all use the entire river bed for horseback trail rides - this mining project will make it impossible to use it for decades to come!

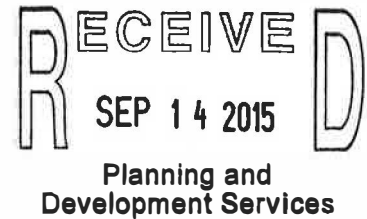
Then there is the question of traffic, noise, pollution, etc. El Monte Road is already a dangerous road that many bicycle riders enjoy. If there are ANY trucks added to this road there will be fatalities! The trucks will have to either drive on Maplevue Street (toward the 67) which will highly elevate the already congested intersection (including El Capitan High School - endangering students), or they will have to go South on Lake Jennings Park Road to the 8 freeway, which will cause significant noise and air pollution right by my home (due to the elevation change of the road). No to mention the noise of all the mining equipment. I assume the mining will have set hours of operation that will ensure they are not running all hours of the day? That won't make much a difference for me (as I am either at my home or the barn).

Thank You for your consideration.,
Jeff Crocker

Jessica Earner
8611 Jackie Drive, San Diego 92119

September 8, 2015

Planning and Development Services
Reference PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2,
PDS2015-RP-15-001 Log No. PDS2015-ER-98-14016B
Attention Jim Bennett
5510 Overland Avenue, Ste. 310
San Diego, CA 92123



Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am writing to implore you to please share my opinion about the sand mining project on El Monte Road in Lakeside, California. I grew up on that road. My parents still live there and have been there for 35 years. It is a place where people take a Sunday drive, or ride their bikes and horses, hang glide or fly their remote control airplanes. So many enjoy the beautiful landscape, the park, boating at the reservoir. It is a charming place, a special little slice of rural life in a quickly changing world. People from all over San Diego enjoy this road for the beautiful country road that it is. It absolutely breaks my heart to think of what will occur in that place with constant drilling and trucks hauling aggregate, driving in and out of the valley, day in, day out, 12 hours a day for the next 15-20 years.

If this project proceeds, it will DESTROY the valley. There are so many birds, rabbits, lizards, bobcats, coyotes, insects, dairy animals, horses and FAMILIES that make their home in this area. I want to know what happens to these hundreds of families who live here and who have devoted a lifetime to improving their homes and yards. Suddenly will they have no wells? No clean air to breathe because it is filled with the dust of sand mining? The noise of drilling filling every waking moment? What about what they would be exposing all the residents to when digging around in sand that surely must be full of fungus from the riverbed? What about the fact that people have spent their life's savings trying to own property here to get away from it all?

It would be such a tragedy to let this happen. I can't imagine that it would happen in a place like Julian, the beaches, La Mesa, Coronado, La Jolla? Certainly there is somewhere less populated that they could mine for sand? I personally know all about living with something like this because for several years I lived next to mining on Mission Gorge Road in San Diego. It was terrible! Noisy, dusty, and a total eyesore to the community. Not only that but the mining sends all the little creatures of the area straight into people's homes, like rats, scorpions, even deer! (Yes, I did see deer running through our town-home development, scared to death with no where to live and running to escape the constant blasting and digging.)

Please let my voice be heard.

Sincerely,
Jessica Earner

EL MONTE SAND MINE & NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

August 13, 2015 through September 14, 2015

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING COMMENT SHEET

NOP Scoping Meeting August 26, 2015
Lakeside Community Center
9841 Vine Street
Lakeside, California 92040



Concerns:

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

- 1) We need a brand new EIR with new analyses (not a subsequent EIR). (New data)
- 2) Be sure to provide adequate and extensive detail regarding restoration and reclamation, specifically in regards to mitigating impacts.
- 3) We should have set up a regular monitoring program to ensure compliance for all mitigation at every level of project implementation.

(Attach additional pages as needed)

Jitha Fau 9/10/15
Signature Date

Jitha Perez

Print Name

8260 Linden Rd.

Address

Lakeside, CA 92040

City

State

Zip Code

MAIL or E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone#: (858) 694-3820
e-mail: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

EL MONTE SAND MINE & NATURE PRESERVE

PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
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Lakeside Community Center

9841 Vine Street

Lakeside, California 92040

2 of 2

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

4) Michael Beck (and associates) should
be investigated for conflict of interest
in his roles with this project.
(Thank you for addressing
these points.)

Julia Parez

(Attach additional pages as needed)

MAIL or E-MAIL COMMENTS TO:

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone#: (858) 694-3820
e-mail: jim.bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov

Julia Parez 9/10/15
Signature Date
Julia Parez
Print Name
8260 Linden Rd.
Address
Lakeside, CA 92040
City State Zip Code

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

Joan Embery

13036 Willow Rd, Lakeside Ca 92040 • (619) 443-2503
joan@joanembery.com

September 11, 2015

Jim Bennett
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, Ca 92123

Re: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve

Dear Jim,

As a property owner in close proximity to the above project the following are concerns that should be addressed in consideration of this project and the preparation of an environmental impact report.

1. Would there be an adverse effect on wells in the valley and will private wells be protected.
2. Will there be a defined trail plan with access points and trails mapped in advance with input from user groups.
3. If the project is approved would the extraction process have a defined and reasonable timeline that cannot be extended beyond the end date.
4. Would the "Nature Park" be protected in perpetuity with conservation easements, and the conservation goals defined and supported.
5. As a previously posted valley fever site with known cases documented in this area, will an expert in this field be consulted on the potential threats and control practices.

This valley and its homeowners have suffered a long, tedious, and invasive process of environmental degradation from transmission towers, water pipelines, sand mining, dynamiting, grading, noise, helicopters, and property incursions from contractors. It is with heavy hearts that we confront yet another impact to our lives in the valley.

Sincerely,

Joan Embery



Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve

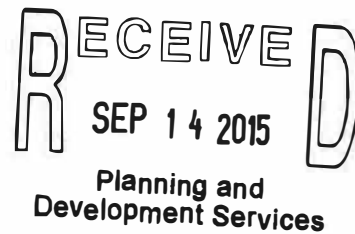
From: Joan Embery [<mailto:joan@joanembery.org>]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: Re: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve

Jim,

Either you or Robert had asked about a valley fever expert contact. I found the name of one of the top experts who has worked with this disease. Dr Demosthenes Pappiagainis, Department Medical Microbiology and Immunology, UC Davis, 530-752-3391. He co-directs the Coccidioidomycosis Serology Lab at UC Davis which provides diagnostic and consultative services. His co-director is Dr George Thompson.

Regards,
Joan

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



Subject: El Monte Sand Mine & Nature Preserve PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2,
PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

September 14, 2015

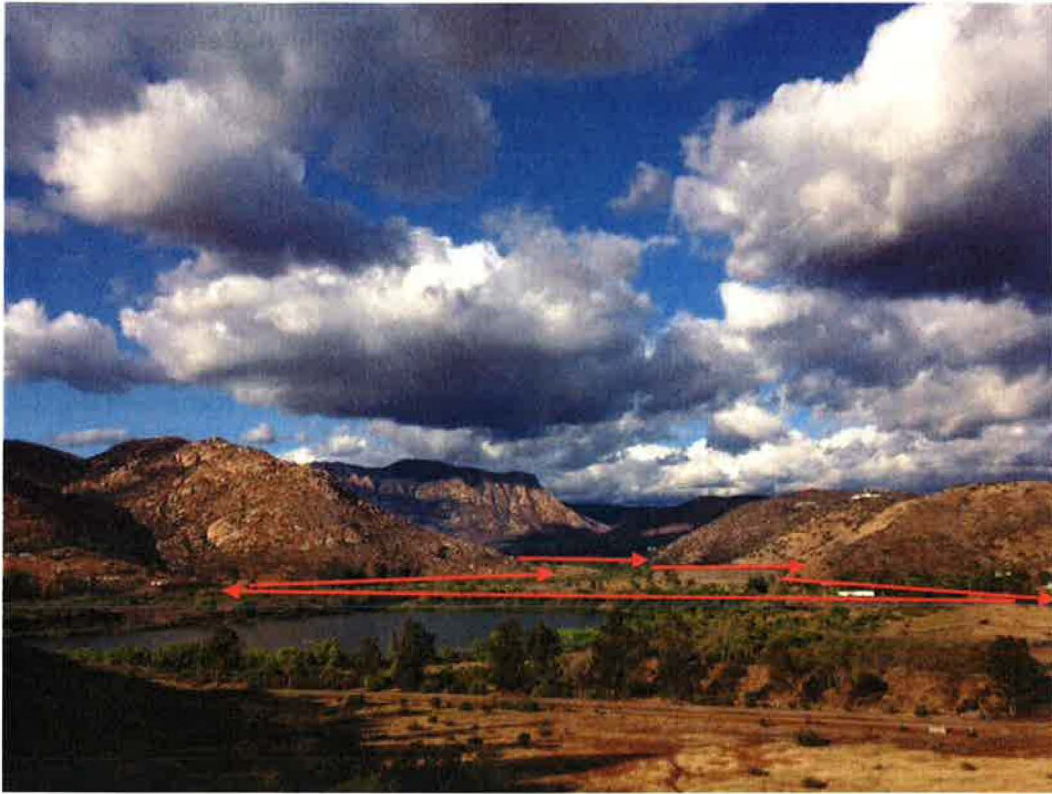
Mr. Bennett,

As stated above the subject of my letter is in regards to the proposed sand mine in the El Monte Valley being operated by the El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve. I have many concerns about this project and I will cover each individually in this document. My expectation is that your department will take careful consideration of my concerns when completing the EIR and hold the El Monte Sand Mine & Nature Preserve accountable for answering each environmental challenge presented.

My first concern is the destruction of thousands of years of nature at work as illustrated by the photo below of the El Monte Valley as viewed from the West. This is the perspective from my home and I believe gives a fairly accurate outline of the 100' deep sand mine that is proposed. I understand what a sand mine looks like. What other structures or out buildings will be needed to clean the sand, maintain the heavy equipment, etc.? The claim that the El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve could dig a 100' deep pit and somehow reclaim nature that took thousands of years to create is completely ludicrous. There is not a single case in San Diego County where any sand mine/ reclamation project has ever been completed. There are two reasons as to why this has been the case. One, there is no system for accountability on the company's part. No accountability to follow the plan that they set for or accountability that they must complete the work that is proposed. The second reason for this is that it would be impossible for any company to rebuild what it has taken nature millions of years to create. Especially after ripping a 200-acre by 100' deep hole in the earth. The impact to nature will be overwhelming and ruined for many generations. Nature that has evolved so perfectly cannot be recreated by man, and should be reason enough for the company's not passing the requirements set forth in the EIR.

My family moved to the El Monte Valley for it's peace and natural beauty, which will certainly be destroyed should the project be approved, at the very least, for the next 15 years. I am 52 years old and thinking that I will live to see the valley restored to its pristine self is a false hope. The value of my property is largely based on the view from my home. Who will be responsible for the decline in my properties value? How will the County offset the decline in tax revenue from decreasing property values? What accountability will the mining company be held to and who is going to

police them to insure that they are ever going to what they propose? With no accountability there should be no mine.



2. I am concerned about the Health Effects that will be created by the proposed mining of sand from the El Monte Valley. One of which is Valley Fever.

Valley fever is an infection caused by a fungus called *Coccidioides*. The fungus is found in the soil and the spores can get into the air when the soil is disrupted by farming, construction, wind or other activities. When spores are inhaled, valley fever can result. Anyone can get valley fever, but it most commonly occurs in people who are frequently exposed to soil and dust in areas where the fungi are present (endemic areas) and in adults aged 60 and older. The most common way for someone to get valley fever is by inhaling the fungal spores that are in the air following a disturbance in the soil in which they live. Some people may be at higher risk of developing severe infection, these groups include:

- **People who have weakened immune systems or have had an organ transplant**
- **People who are taking medications such as corticosteroids or tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-inhibitors**
- **Pregnant women**

- **People who have diabetes**
- **Certain ethnicities, including Black, Filipino, Hispanic, Native American and Asian. ***

***The description above** is from <http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/diseases/valley-fever>

Valley Fever is known to exist in the soil of the El Monte Valley and will certainly be disturbed by the mining that will take place. Not only from the removal of the soil from the ground, but by the movement of excavating equipment and trucks that are doing the work. Considering where I live and the location of the El Monte Valley, a Santa Ana wind could carry the disease to 100,000s of people south, including my family and to the west of the valley including the communities of Lakeside, Santee, El Cajon and San Diego.

3. I am concerned about the environmental impacts that will be created through the use of water being used to clean the sand on the site. It has been stated that over 43 million gallons of water will be used in the first year of the 15-year project alone. The water will come from wells drilled on site. Both the short term and long term effects of this kind of water usage will effect not only the inhabitants of the valley, all of which rely on well water for every day use and agriculture, but on the rest of San Diego County. Will there be a baseline measurement taken of all the wells in the valley to insure that the plant is not destroying peoples livelihoods and lifestyles? Will the sand mine be paying, an impartial contractor, to measure and tests wells on a regular basis for both water levels and contamination? What tests will be done during the length of the project to determine down river contamination? How will the runoff effect the river below and all the way to the ocean? How will this be monitored?

4. I am concerned about the vehicle traffic that will increase due to the proposed 2 to 500 truckloads of sand that will leave the valley each day. El Monte Road is a small two-lane road and the only access in and out of the valley. The traffic must exit off of El Monte Road onto Lake Jennings Park road to the South or North down Maplevue St. through Lakeside. The resident's inability to leave the valley quickly due to fire will be limited by the truck traffic. How will this be accounted for? Lake Jennings park road is extremely busy and there have been several fatality accidents on the road without the increased truck traffic. There will be a negative impact on young drivers at El Capitan High School and bicyclists on El Monte Road as well. What will be done to measure the increased traffic and to insure that safe levels of traffic are not exceeded on any given day or at any given time? What will be the rate of inspection to insure safe numbers of vehicles? What will the cost be to the County to maintain the roadways after the heavy trucks and equipment do damage?

5. I am concerned about the pollution that the sand mine will create. The pollution will have a negative impact on the environment, people's health and serene nature of the valley. The ozone and dust particulates created by the trucks and heavy equipment will have a negative impact on children, athletes and the elderly. The

long-term effects on the environment include global warming due to the hydrocarbons being put off from the vehicles and equipment operating more than 10 hours per day. We will no longer be able to open our windows to fresh air due to the dust that will be created. The cost of running air and heat year round in our home is unaffordable. Who will pay for the increased expense so that our health is not compromised? This is not considering those in the valley that do not have central air and heat. Running my air conditioner is also detrimental to the environment and will increase the amount of green house gasses in the atmosphere that cause global warming. Multiply that times the total amount of households in the El Monte Valley, Blossom Valley and surrounding areas. SDG&E should also be concerned during a high usage alert when I have no choice, but to leave my air conditioner running due to the pollution and dust in the air. Will the APCD be consulted to conduct studies in regards to the pollution that will be created? I believe that they would be interested in the run off of chemicals and contaminated dust particles as they end up in the storm water system as they result of trucks and heavy equipment. How will the dust and pollution issues be resolved? Water, a scarce resource will obviously be used in massive amounts. Is the mining of sand for profit in our backyard a reasonable enterprise during a time of drought? What are the long and short-term effects to the watershed? Sand is already being imported from Arizona and Mexico where the environmental impacts are less. I would suggest reading the study done by San Diego State on sand mines. This is the link: http://threeissues.sdsu.edu/three_issues_sandminingfacts01.html

6. I am concerned about contamination of the wells in the area as well as the aquifer. The contamination of wells throughout the valley due to oil spills and chemicals being used to control dust and clean sand is a concern.

Where are the trucks going to refuel? How will the fuel get to the proposed mining site? Fuel spills are likely. What steps will be taken to insure that when fuel spills happen they will be reported and cleaned up appropriately? Is the intention that an enterprise so large self police itself? With truck traffic planned at up to 500 trips per day there will need to be thousands of gallons of fuel on the mining site at any one time. That fuel also needs to be trucked in. What steps will be taken to mitigate the danger of driving large fuel tankers through residential areas and past local schools around Lakeside? With access to large amounts of fuel and agricultural fertilizers nearby, are concerns about acts of terrorism being addressed?

7. I am concerned about the noise that the sand mine will create in the valley. The valley is essentially a funnel for sound. I can hear a dog bark from over 2 miles away at my neighbor's home just east of us. When the mining project at Hanson pond was operating, trucks entered the valley at 5:30 am and the operators of those trucks left them to idle until the mine opened at 7:00 am each morning. The noise was disruptive to both nature and the residents of the valley. The decibel levels coming from the plant as well as the trucks will cause a negative impact on both humans and animals. My right to live in a peaceful valley will be disrupted along with everyone that lives here. What sound analysis will be done to insure that noise levels are not loud enough to ruin the nature of the valley? Will those levels be monitored daily and throughout the length of the project?

8. I am concerned about the loss of habitat for many species of animals during the mining phases of the project. The El Monte Valley is home to tree frogs, raccoons, quail, road runners, owls, raptors, egret, yellow warblers, the checker spot butterfly, elderberry longhorn beetles, willow fly catcher, red diamond back rattle snake, rosy boa, great grey horned owls, San Diego ring-necked snake, Laguna skipper, Zayante band winged grasshopper, Quino checker spot butterfly, Swallow tail butterfly, Ceanothus moth, several species of sensitive bats, horned lizards, deer, bobcats, golden eagles, redheaded woodpeckers, and endangered species like the least Bell's vireos, arroyo toad and gnat catchers. The valley is also home to many species of plants including oak trees, Sycamores, Chapparal plants, Willows, and Elderberry trees. These plants and animals will either be destroyed or displaced due to the mining. This is a fairly complete list, but a study should be done over several years of both drought and rain to determine all of the species that exist and are active in the valley. Some species lie dormant in times of drought so will this be taken into account when determining the length of the study? The valley is an important wildlife corridor. The mining operation will completely block the valley for the wildlife. What will be done to ensure that wildlife has a though fare through the valley? What will be done to replace the flora that will be destroyed? Will there be a count done of all the plants to insure, that at minimum, the valley will be restored to its current state? Will the animals be counted to ensure that their numbers do not diminish as a result of the mining operation? How will the sand mining company be held accountable to insure that the land is reclaimed and returned to a better state than it is now? Will the sand mining company be granted an extension on their 15-year lease if they have not followed the plan to the letter? How will the funding be guaranteed for reclamation once the sand is removed? It is my opinion that this will be extremely difficult due to the LLC nature of the company itself. There is no accountability. As mentioned earlier, no sand mining company has ever been held accountable for restoration in San Diego County.

9. I am concerned about the loss of trails and access to the area. The El Monte Valley is a scenic destination for horse riders, bicyclists, and hikers. Reducing the amount of recreational space people need to lead active lifestyles and healthy lives will be detrimental to their health. Don't we want people to be healthier? The health costs to the County are already enormous. Will the sand mine operation be responsible for those costs? Will their contribution to County coffers offset the health related costs to the County? Will the county insure that the mining company does what it says and incorporate trails throughout the term of the project? Who will monitor this and hold the sand mining company accountable?

10. I am concerned about the water that will be exposed and pooled from digging down to the aquifer. Water warming in the sun is prime breeding ground for vector diseases such as West Nile Virus and Dengue fever, which are carried by mosquitoes. Other concerns include unmonitored public access to the ponds that will be created through mining. The steep sides will be dangerous and drowning may occur. Public safety is paramount and will be jeopardized by the mine. Hanson pond is a good example of how a sand mine turned pond is left in disrepair and unmonitored. Transients have turned it into a campground. The result has been an increased level in crime and a safety concern for my family. Children sneak into the site through fencing in disrepair to swim and fish in the lake. Has testing been done

on the water in the pond to determine if it is safe? If it is not safe, is this not a good example of what we are to expect from the proposed mine operation?

11. I am concerned about the loss of life and property should a flood occur during the mining. Digging a 200 acre, 100' deep pit will create a low spot in the valley where the floodwaters will rush taking with it property, homes, livestock and potentially human life. A similar scenario happened the last time water went over the top of the dam at the El Capitan reservoir. A local valley man lost over 9 acres in the resulting flood. His 9 acres ended up in the bottom of the sand mine of that time. What engineering studies will be done to ensure that this scenario is not repeated? There will be another flood and property will be lost if the mining operation is approved.

12. I am concerned about the loss of Native American artifacts as I have a degree in art and hold these things dear. Native Americans have lived in the valley for thousands of years. Many people have found ancient pottery and tools in the valley. What will be done to mitigate the loss of our archaeological artifacts? Who will ensure that the mining company reports all artifacts that are exposed?

13. Lastly and most importantly, I am concerned that past EIRs for sand mining and golf course projects will be used to create this new EIR for the proposed sand mine. This is a new project with different scope in a new time and the EIR should contain all new findings. How can we as citizens be sure that the old information is relevant and how do we know that what information is used from old EIRs is appropriate or complete? This is a new project, with new people in a new time. It would be a mistake to not start with a completely new EIR just to save time and money at the County.

I am expecting that all of the concerns I have pointed out will be covered in the new EIR and that you will do your best to insure that the natural beauty of the valley is preserved and the health and safety needs of everyone in the El Monte Valley region are met.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Garth

13328 Maplevue St.
Lakeside, CA 92040
858-877-1209

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: Comments for Environmental Impact Report El Monte Sand Mine

-----Original Message-----

From: JOSETTE FRANKEL [mailto:josettefrankel@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 12:18 PM

To: Bennett, Jim

Subject: RE: Comments for Environmental Impact Report El Monte Sand Mine

Dear Jim,

Gosh! I'm going to cut and paste. Tried to send this material through "Mail" and did not get any response therefore Safari:

9/12/2015

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

ATTN: Mr. Mark Wardlaw, Mr. Darren Gretler, Ms. Mindy Fogg, Mr. Robert Hingtgen
RE: Notice of preparation of environmental impact report: El Monte Nature Preserve Project

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I truly appreciate your close attention to this complex matter. Please allow this letter to supersede my other comments written in the heat of the moment at our general meeting and in my e-mail on 9/10 as I further reviewed the important reasons why the application from El Monte Nature Preserve Project should be denied:

Valley Fever spores: A fungus known to be in the soil of El Monte Valley releases airborne spores when the soil is disturbed. Symptoms: flu, difficulty breathing, exhaustion, skin rash, muscle ache and joint pain as related by Dr. Christy Walker, MD, and Epidemiologist, Dr. Sue Erickson, August 25, 2015 at the public citizen's meeting at the Lakeside Community Church. Think, increased incidents and lawsuits. Please study this issue comprehensively.

Contamination and Loss of San Diego Tourism Income: 480 to 500 trucks filled with contaminated sand raising dust and releasing Valley Fever spores into the air on private dirt roads, streets and freeways for twenty years every day of the year, except for holidays.(Estimated removal of sand 15 to 18 million tons of per year) Will this infected dust pose a clear and present danger to all of Southern California? Think, Santa Ana winds! Please study impact on health and tourism.

West Nile Virus, etc: Once the sand is removed, will the underground sludge exposed to the elements grow bacteria and attract mosquito larvae? Think, West Nile Virus and other vectors. Please study how West Nile Virus, malaria, dengue fever, chikungunia fever are transmitted.

Erosion and Water Pollution: Would soil erosion occur once the vegetation and sand are gone? What about the well-water quality? Think, El Nino floods! Please study the erosive effects of floods.

Release of Chemicals, Poisons, and Bacteria: Will a flood dislodge the protective measures the county put in place to keep the soil from contamination from an ancient garbage dump located on a hundred-year flood plain? Where would the mud, the water, the boulders, and the debris go? Think, water contamination! Please study and predict the potential and the location of contaminant plumes.

Traffic Jam Nightmare: With so much traffic on the roads, will there be hazards driving and breathing contaminated dust on a two way dirt road in an impassable traffic jam? Will the residents become virtual prisoners in their own home? Will schools have to change their schedule to accommodate traffic problems? In case of fire or medical emergency, what is the escape route? Think accidents, blight, depression, illness, loss of animals, and income with no emergency exit! Please complete a detailed comprehensive traffic study which takes into account trucks, service vehicles, employee vehicles, level of service and particulate exhaust in a confined valley. Please develop an emergency plan.

Water Waste: Will water be wasted in order to separate the sand from the soil, and deflect the growth of mosquitoes? The El Monte Sand Mine proposes to use water, enormous quantities, which we can't afford in these days of drought. Think, threat to the aquifer and loss of water! Please complete a detailed study of changes in the population's density if the wells run dry. Please complete a detailed ground water study that examines upstream and downstream impact from the base of the dam to the border with the city of Santee.

Destruction of the beauty of El Monte Scenic Valley Corridor: With the removal of the vegetation on 500 acres and the destruction of wild animal and protected species, will this beautiful, rugged natural land from the mountains to the sea, still be a healthy recreational outlet? Think, blight and loss of recreational facility! Please complete a detailed protocol biological survey and provide a comprehensive study of all vertebrate and invertebrate species.

Loss of Property Values: With the destruction of the topography, the noise, dust, airborne diseases, increased traffic, might there also be an economic loss to the people of the county of San Diego? People moved there for specific reasons: the quiet, the ability to ride horses, the fresh air, and to enjoy a rural bucolic environment. Think consequences to the loss of an irreplaceable scenic, wild environment, traffic problems and fears of increased airborne diseases! Please complete a study and prediction of the potential economic consequences to the value of the real estate of Lakeside, the possible loss of property values as well as changes in the density of the population and character of the environment.

Human life, animal life, property values, private roads, agriculture, business, protected species, and recreation in the wild: do they matter? I am now 81. Would I have to wait till I am 101 to enjoy or sell my land, and in the meantime pay taxes and assume the cost of keeping it fire proof? A greater vision needs to accommodate the community as well as the financial purposes of Helix Water District and the El Monte Sanding Mine Company, now, "The El Monte Valley Nature Preserve," one which will be of benefit to everyone concerned. I trust in the integrity and fairness of your decision as your mission statement so powerfully declares: "We strive to balance community, economic and environmental interests to ensure the highest quality of life for the public of San Diego County."

JOSETTE FRANKEL, 2881 Arcola Ave, San Diego, CA 92117 858-581-9046, josettefrankel@sbcglobal.net

So sorry if you can duplicates, and thanks again!

Josette

On Mon, 9/14/15, Bennett, Jim <Jim.Bennett@sdcounty.ca.gov> wrote:

Subject: RE: Comments for Environmental Impact Report El Monte Sand Mine

From: [Judy Soule](#)
To: [Fogg, Mindy](#); [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: El Monte Sand Mine
Date: Monday, September 14, 2015 1:08:17 PM

Hello Members of the County Planning & Development Services,

I have been a resident of Lakeside since 1977. I have seen many changes in the Lakeside area over the years; many of them are wonderful improvements made by the County. I do not see the proposed El Monte Sand Mine as anything but a negative black mark on our Community and a blight on a wonderful rural area in the County.

The Public Forum on August 26th was helpful to me in understanding the proposed Sand Mine and opened my eyes to so many problems that may arise if the Sand Mine is approved. I do not see how the owners can mitigate the severity of the following physical, biological, and economic impact brought to light by so many knowledgeable and concerned residents:

1. Destruction of Riparian Habitat, Flora and Fauna:

Folks going to El Monte Park to enjoy the open rural area will have an ugly sand mine to view instead of open space and natural habitat. The area's flora and fauna will be destroyed. El Monte Park and the surrounding rural area has been enjoyed by generations and should continue for years to come. Please review Chapter 5 of the County's General Plan:

http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/gpupdate/docs/BOS_Aug2011/C.1-4_Conservation_and_Open_Space.pdf

2. Damage to Public and Private Property by dropping the Groundwater Table: Sand mining would leave drinking water wells for residents in the area at great risk! Without good water wells, their property values go to zero! Wells are their only source of water.

3. Water quality:

"Increased short-term turbidity at the mining site due to re suspension of sediment, sedimentation due to stockpiling and dumping of excess mining materials and organic particulate matter, and oil spills or leakage from excavation machinery and transportation vehicles" (PLEASE REVIEW this website:

[http://threeissues.sdsu.edu/three_issues_sandminingfacts01.htmlite: \)](http://threeissues.sdsu.edu/three_issues_sandminingfacts01.htmlite:)

4. Disturbing the soil may increase risk to the Community for Valley Fever. A complete study of this possibility should most certainly be included in the Environmental Impact Report (**SEIR**). My husband is a heart transplant recipient and has a compromised immune system. This could be deadly for him! We live very close to the El Monte area.

5. Sand mining almost always includes a standing body of water which will contribute to a growing mosquito population and possible West Nile Virus outbreak.

6. The people who purchased homes in the area did so because they prefer a rural lifestyle and appreciate life in a more natural environment. A sand mine project along the riverbed will most certainly destroy their property values and even if the area is retrofitted into a "nature preserve" after 15 years -- what kind of lifestyle and

damage will be done to their property values in the meantime. What about the rights of the residential property owners? As a matter of fact, some folks purchased property in the area based on the fact that the subject property was designated as a proposed golf course!

7. The road to El Capitan Reservoir is a 2 lane road, traveled by local residents, El Monte Park visitors, and folks going to El Capitan Reservoir with trailers and boats. Adding heavy equipment and trucks hauling sand will make an already dangerous roadway even worse!

This Sand Mine is a terrible idea !

There is little evidence that the property was ever going to be a golf course EXCEPT for the 18 acres of sand mining they did without permits (making it look like they were working toward their planned project). Seeing the amount of sand produced was probably an ahha moment for them. Sand mining would certainly produce more income than a golf course! so they decided to change their permit to sand mining?

They have not returned their current "eye sore" sand dredging operation and pond back to its natural state, so what guarantees do we have that they will complete their mining in 15 year and make reparations?

After the proposed 15 year period of sand extraction, the owners could request an extension of time -- making the negative impact last even longer.

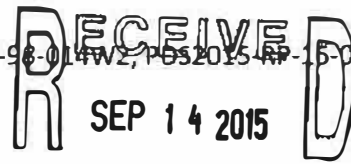
The Community and the local residents should not have to wait out the number of years it will take to complete the plan and revert a sand mine into a "Nature Preserve". Do we really trust the owners to create a "Nature Preserve" as good as it currently exists? I think not.

I believe the owners of the property proposing the sand mine have rights too. They should have an opportunity to get something from their investment; however, if they made a bad investment decision in the first place -- why do we need to suffer the consequences of their loss? There must be something else they can do with the land to salvage their investment, but they should not receive a permit to change the use from a golf course to a sand mine.

Please do not approve the proposed project in its current or any revised form.

Thank you,

Judy Soule



Dear Mr. Bennett,

Here are my list of concerns'

#1 El Monte and Willow Roads have been recognized by the Lakeside General Plan as "scenic corridors" How can you allow a sand mining project with their plans of a "fence and 8' high berm" around the site as allowed for a "scenic corridor?"

Please respond

#2 The last EIR done 15 or so years ago, on the Golf Course EIR it states "that water and wells will be affected and possibly contaminated if lower than 15' in drought conditions". We now have been in a drought for over 5 years and the project plans state they plan to dig down to 90+ feet. How is this NOT going to impact area wells, and the aquifer? Water was reason the last project (recharge) was voted against. How will this project be less of an impact?

When McGrath mined his property on Willow Rd. his mining drained Huck Finn Pond, which was used by local boy scouts and others. It was a loss to the community.

How is this project going NOT going to affect the local residents and our community?

Please respond

#3 There are 24 Native American sites located within 1 mile from this project. 6 sites are recorded as being directly adjacent the project area and site

#Ca-SDI-13,652 is located within the project area, and where trails have been planned.

Please explain how this can be mitigated.

Please respond

#4 **Noise**

Noise from this project will impact not only nearby homeowners, but everyone in the valley due to the way noise travels through the valley. Many of the birds, raptures and other animals will be disturbed by noise. Animals that HOPEFULLY will move to the northeast area where the property will not be mined.

I request a new noise impact study of the VALLEY be done.

#5 **Traffic**

With the 200-400 truck trips planned with this project traveling on El Monte Rd, Lake Jennings, and also highways 67 and I-8 I am concerned with the young drivers going to and from El Capitan High School. Statistics say almost all new drivers will be involved in an accident within their first year of driving. An

accident with a truck (or a truck also pulling a load, which sand trucks most are) can and will be fatal in a collision, especially with a young driver.

What about traffic in case of a fire? All the El Monte residents have only ONE way out of the valley.

Double loaded trucks on El Monte Rd could make the difference between life and death.

Also, El Monte Rd is used by mountain bikers, lake/boat traffic, people hauling horses. How is double loaded trucks going to impact impatient drivers who already pass slower vehicles.

I request a NEW traffic study be done with these problems addressed

#6 **Wildlife Corridors** El Monte Valley has been recognized as an East / West and North / South wildlife corridors. How will the animals be able to move through this project and continue their north/south and east/ west paths?

I am also concerned about loss of habitat for all animals who live in the riverbed

I am requesting a NEW STUDY be done in the El Monte Valley to see exactly what animals are PRESENTLY in the valley. Things change with weather and habitats and over time.

#7 One of the documents in the original EIR for the Golf Course

“Final Environmental Impact Report”

El Capitan Golf Course

Helix Water Department

Approximately page 160 on part 2 was prepared by Rick Carpenter, Project Manager of ENVIROMINE!

The same company that is now asking to put through this project!

How is this NOT a conflict of interest? I am requesting a NEW EIR be done from the beginning.

#9 **The Lakeside Community Plan**, was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on August 3, 2011

Under Land Use. The below sections are taken from our Lakeside Community Plan. Please address the following;

RESIDENTIAL GOAL

PROVIDE FOR GRADUAL RESIDENTIAL GROWTH, WHILE RETAINING THE RURAL ATMOSPHERE OF LAKESIDE.

Is this project appropriate to our “Rural Atmosphere”? I think not!