

Sibbet, David

From: Debbie Wilkie <dswilkie@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Sibbet, David; Wardlaw, Mark
Subject: North County Environmental Resources Project (Mesa Rock Road)

Dear Messrs. Sibbert and Wardlaw:

Please consider this communication my formal objection to the building of a recycling plant located west of Interstate 15 (I-15) along Mesa Rock Road in the Twin Oaks Community Plan Area, more formally identified as North County Environmental Resources PDS2008-3500-08-015; PDS2013-BC-13-0019; PDSXXX-HLP-XXX, LOG NO. PDS2008-3910-0808012 (referred to herein as "the project"). I have owned my home in the Escondido Hills area, which is located just south of the proposed building site just east of Centre City Parkway and north of Country Club Lane, since 1981. I have been evacuated three times for fires that have erupted on the hill immediately behind my house. Accordingly, I have significant concerns regarding the fire hazard the project presents to an area that is already rife with fire concerns. In fact, in the past year, many of the homeowners in this development have had their homeowners insurance policies cancelled, by multiple insurance companies who have deemed the area to be a significant fire hazard zone. Accordingly, the installation of the project contemplated by the County is egregious and negligent and potentially puts the residents in the immediate vicinity directly in harms' way. It is my understanding that fires at similar facilities, have already occurred, including but not limited to the following:

- **November 7, 2014:** A major fire occurred at a San Marcos trash and recycling facility
- **July 20, 2016:** A major fire at a Spring Valley recycling center injured a firefighter and damaged homes in the nearby vicinity;
- **September 23, 2016,** fire sparks occurred at a Lakeside recycling center;
- **October 21, 2016,** fire burned at an Ontario recycling plant sending plumes of smoke into the air from wood pallets and a propane tank to explode; and
- **May 16, 2018,** an El Cajon recycling plant burst into flames.

You must also be aware of the fact that as recently as September 14, 2019, fire threatened the Escondido/Deer Springs Road neighborhood just off Interstate 15, within a mile of the proposed North County Environmental Resources proposed project site.

In addition, I expect the applicant to be required to submit a full Environmental Impact Report for the project as the County required in 2015. Planning and Development Services (PDS) is now using the California Environmental Quality Act Section 15183 process which is a less intensive evaluation for project impacts and does not require public input. Given the potential impact of the project on the surrounding area, a full Environmental Impact Report is required.

The project contemplated by Hilltop Group Inc. will process construction and demolition debris as well as tree trimmings and green waste. The peculiar presence of an industrial recycling facility near these residential areas will be disruptive and have a number of negative consequences for local residents which cannot be ignored, and which will result in specific and significant negative effects to an area that was not intended in the spirit of the County Plan or the CEQA submitted, including, but not limited to the following:

- Particulate emissions from demotion and leveling on the mountain side as well as from the operation of crushing, grinding and material handling equipment outdoors;
- Noise from explosive blasting during the construction phase and then the operation phase of crushing and associated equipment on site;
- Noise and dust from full loaded trucks entering and leaving the site through Mesa Rock Road, Centre City Parkway and the Deer Springs overpass;
- The residential community will be burdened with monitoring and reporting violations including gas emissions, noise, dust, and/or truck loads, as well as monitoring equipment not included in the project;
- Excessive grading of an iconic hill and rock known affectionately by residents as Bear Rock; and
- A facility perched on a high level grade in view of over 6100 residents.

Further, there was insufficient time for the residents effected to adequately review and comment on the hundreds of pages of information submitted by the applicant, and thus a 90-day (minimum) extension of time to comment is requested.

My opposition to the project cannot be stated strongly enough. I know it is difficult to change the course when resources and efforts have gone into a project such as this. I strongly urge you to do so, however, as those expended resources and efforts pale in comparison to those expended by the families living in the area who have so much to lose should the project proceed as contemplated.

Thank you for your anticipated consideration of the foregoing.
Sincerely,

Debra Wilkie
608 Wildflower Place
Escondido, CA 92026

(760) 470-8353

Sent via email and U.S. Mail

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October 21, 2019

David Sibbert, Planning Manager and
Mark Wardlaw, Planning Director
County of San Diego - Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

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