

Bennett, Jim

From: Catherine Gorka <catherine@pamperedparrots.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2015 4:47 AM
To: Bennett, Jim; Hingtgen, Robert J
Subject: El Monte valley sand mining comments against the project please submit. Thank you.

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County of San Diego Planning & Development Services
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Attn: Jim Bennett & Robert Hingtgen

Comments/Concerns Re: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-2015-RP-15-001, LOG PDS2015-ER98-14-016B

WELL WATER – DEPLETION AND CONTAMINATION

My neighbor Robin Pawl of the Magic horse therapy brought this to my attention and think you should be made aware of this as the golf course/sand miners knew of lack of water already out here. Please note this in your findings:" As El Capitan was pursuing environmental approval for the golf course development, Helix agreed in an August 24, 1998 letter writing to provide "a supplemental water supply should the groundwater basin prove insufficient to support the subject golf course." Specifically, the agreement provided that "[Helix] will provide a supplemental water supply for the golf course in the event of a short fall of groundwater. It is understood that [Helix] does not have the facilities in the El Monte Valley to provide a potable supply, and that water provided is raw water, and cannot be used for human consumption."

In 1999 El Capitan procured an environmental impact report (EIR) for the golf course development. The EIR assumed a certain continuous water table level.

When the water table dropped, El Capitan notified Helix and developed a replacement for the outmoded revegetation plan for the Property. In response, Helix insisted that it would require off-site environmental mitigation. Buying off-site mitigation land would have made the golf course development financially unfeasible.

This and more information can be found at
<http://www.leagle.com/decision/In%20CACO%2020110512046/EL%20CAPITAN%20GOLF%20CLUB,%20LLC%20v.%20HELIX%20WATER%20DISTRICT>

I believe the ground water level in Helix's land is going dropping, this is a major issue to all, no water, no household, this will be a blighted valley.

We are very concerned of drawing down our wells, who will pay to have deeper wells dug?

Some neighbors wells are extremely shallow. My well dug in 1980 found water at 120-140 ft but now who knows.

Contamination of our well water, these issues can arise now or in the future with the drought or other problems.

These ponds can dry up depleting our ground water, allowing toxins to bleed into the fractured bedrock polluting our only water source again now or in the future.

I know I am on fractured rock and very concerned as my patio has dropped an inch and a half in the last year from the ground drying up.

Many of my fruit trees and other trees have died. I am preserving the maximum amount of water as we are in a drought, not a drop wasted here.

What happens when there ponds go dry and we have Santa Ana winds blowing all this stuff around? What methods are they using to protect us from all this dust (valley fever spores) blowing at us? What erosion plans do they have for the ponds and the rest of the project now and in the future? This valley gets real strong winds.

What happens when they hit rock and no sand, how will they recoup, will they enlarge the ponds?

Endowments, what methods of compensation is there for now and future? Will they pay now and in the future for monitoring our wells for levels and toxins?

AIR QUALITY

Health concerns, will they pay now and in the future for monitoring our health and of our animals? Parrots that I breed are very sensitive to dust and toxins, they bathe and drink the well water. This project can kill them. How will this impact my parrot breeding program?

The CPUC created a no fly zone over my aviaries to protect my species when the Sunrise Powerlink was being built.

What can they do to protect my parrots sensitive lungs from the dust, diesel fumes and whatever else they create? How will this vibration and constant noise affect them, no babies I'm out of business.

NOISE

Will they be blasting? When SDGE was blasting for poles years back it sounds like an explosion in my house, I'm on some vein or something and my house shook. How will this impact my home's foundation and the noise and vibration to my parrots?

Last time they were mining they were to my east and even upgrading to dual pane windows the noise was terrible. My mother had to turn her TV up so high. This noise and vibration will affect my parrots and my health, tinnitus.

They created and will create a lot of noise, they might comply but this valley collects all the noise like a fish bowl.

It is extremely tiring to hear all that machinery and trucks operating, and difficult to deal with.

With them destroying all of the trees that dampen the road noise from El Monte, I have no idea of how that additional noise will affect my parrots. I know I will no longer be able to have my windows open to rest.

BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Wildlife will be displaced. Where will the animals that den in the riverbed go? On to our properties to kill our pets and animals? We have bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes and a bunch of other animals. We lost our horned lizard and other small animals that I do not know their names when they were mining last time. They either moved elsewhere or died.

Trees, the old oaks they are removing them all, Helix in their pee to tap project were going to save them but this project these guys are just moving /destroying everything in their path for sand dollars. There is no number of smaller trees to compare to their beauty of our precious oak trees.

Santa Ana winds blowing here when they were mining last time created huge sand storms similar to what Arizona gets we got here. This will cause evaporation of their ponds. Will there be pumps running to fill the ponds or will they dry up like our Lindo Lake in Lakeside?

What erosion measures are they taking? Will their pumps be quiet so those people that are alive on 20+ years can maybe enjoy the silence again, to be able to hear only nature once again?

Will there be fish in the ponds to control mosquitoes? Last time their water tanks were full of mosquitoes so the potential of West Nile increases.

Will they allow fishing? Will this bring in the homeless population to fish and sleep out here?

POWER

Will you make them move the power lines after new lines are in so those of us on Willow Rd have power all the time since it currently goes across the riverbed?

TRAFFIC

Traffic issues, people get pissed with the traffic on El Monte with the big rigs so they cut across and use our private road which causes more erosion and ruts, washboard worsens for us, how is this being addressed? Last time several of my chickens were killed as people flew by, this is a private road.

FLOOD CONTROL

Run off from the hills goes down to the riverbed through my property and my neighbors, as of yet I have not heard anything from Enviro group. I believe nearly 3000 acres flow that can come down behind me and other neighbors, how are you addressing this? We flood if not addressed correctly. Address this from the beginning not after we flood, please.

TESTING FOR TOXINS

Will they be testing for toxins as they dig? In the 2003 fire on Helix land near Hanson pond area there was a lot of trash buried that burned.

NATIVE AMERICAN SITES

Native American artifacts/burial sites, I know they covered one section up last time but what happens if they find things now, will they say nothing and just trash it? Will you have inspectors on site during all their digging? They did things wrong last time, no trust here.

DISPUTED PROPERTY LINES

Property lines are in dispute, Helix survey and other surveys overlap. The trails appear to abut the property lines so now will people be using our private property for their pleasure? Who will be liable? Will there be fencing to keep them inside or will they now just park and walk along our private property thinking that Willow Rd is public? It is a private road.

REAL ESTATE VALUES

Real estate values will drop as who will want to live with an operating sand mining operation.

We bought because of its scenic simple natural beauty and now we will be forced to endure 6 days of noisy smelly trucks., driving back and forth in front of our homes that had scenic views of nature at its best. How about all those other homes in Blossom valley that look down at this spectacular valley, how will their values adjust for this ugly site?

El Monte valley will lose its value and become blighted, properties will go for cheap. Most of us can't recoup waiting 20+ years.

No money in our real estate here now till they finish.

HOURS OF OPERATION - RECLAMATION

Can you, reduce the days of operations and hours? I see they are wrapping up this project in 20+ years unless the sand is not there and then they bail on the project leaving us like last time with massive ugly holes.

If they really care have them create the trails, restore the trees., before they do their mining so at least some people can enjoy it. The rest of us that bought here are getting our investments pulled out right from under us.

GO DIG ELSEWHERE

Go dig elsewhere. Leave our only water source alone. Leave us alone.

Our air, scenic views, values and lifestyle and health issues alone cannot be mitigated. There are other areas to destroy which would not damage them so much.

I know you are aware of our health concerns out in the valley, such as valley fever., but I'm sure they are ready to mitigate that and the loss of some plants and animals.

They can't mitigate the loss of our lifestyle, natural beauty, wildlife, views, quiet, and loss of well water.

This is a terrible project.

Catherine Górká

www.Pamperedparrots.com