

Bennett, Jim

From: Caprice Sander <caprice8487@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 8:02 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: robert.hingten@sdcounty.ca.gov; Orozco, Juliette; Fogg, Mindy
Subject: PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

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.

This project will negatively impact many aspects of the environment that will affect the quality of life in Lakeside and the rest of San Diego County. The water quality and hydrology are a key component to the El Monte Valley. The natural aquifer will be destroyed if mining is allowed. This cannot be replaced once it has been raped, pillaged and plundered. The LLC proposing this project claims it will restore the area once they are done. If that is even possible, it will take several generations to do so. It isn't worth the gamble. In the meantime, water levels will be depleted, wells will dry up, contamination from destruction of the natural aquifer will happen. There is also a potential for the West Nile Virus to infiltrate the area. If so, who will pay for the containment or for any other issues that result from it?

Once the groundwater has been compromised, the rest of the ecosystem will become unbalanced. The endangered species already identified in the area will have less of a chance for survival. How many other species might be added to the endangered list? The biodiversity of the area will be compromised. No amount of restoration can bring back a species once it is gone.

Another concern is the potential for Valley Fever to spread. It's known to exist in the area. Grading and mining the area will surely disturb the spores and cause a potential public health crisis. Who will be responsible for any who become ill? Will the LLC pay for hospitalization and all the costs of treatment in addition to pain and suffering?

The quality of life for those who live in the El Monte Valley will suffer. The noise pollution, the dust, the traffic, the recreation will negatively affect their environment. Sundays will be the only day that life will be somewhat normal. This isn't acceptable.

Although I am not a resident of the El Monte Valley, I still have a vested interest in the area. Over the years, I have used El Monte Park and El Capitan reservoir. I studied the uniqueness of the area in an environmental biology class at Grossmont College 40 years ago. I want my grandchildren to have the opportunity to do the same rather than to read about how it once was before they mined the area to death.

Please be thorough and diligent as you prepare the environmental impact report. This East County "Yosemite" is jewel and treasure that needs to remain in its natural state.

Sincerely,

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