Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: comments for EIR El Monty Valley

From: Robin Pawl [mailto:robinpawl@nethere.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 3:32 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Subject: comments for EIR El Monty Valley

Jim Bennett ~

The oak trees in El Monte Valley are a significant link in the biodiversity of the habitat. How many animal and plant species (including insects and fungi) are linked to the oaks?

How is the strip mining project going to replace the oak trees? Some of the trees are a century or more old.

I was told by Crystal Howard the "grove" of oaks at the east end of the project would be left. They are not a grove. They are a few individuals struggling to survive after the ground around them was graded away for the golf course. Some of them have died. The drought has made it very difficult for them to recover from the ground disturbance around them.

How many oak trees are going to be removed?
How many oak trees are going to be replaced?
Will the new habitat "restored" by the strip miners be able to support oak trees?

How is the wood from the trees going to be processed or removed?

http://ucanr.edu/sites/gsobinfo/Recovery/Oak_Woodland_Recovery/

For a century, there has been concern in California that several species of native oaks are not regenerating sufficiently. Poor regeneration not only threatens the oak forests themselves,
but also the wildlife that utilize oak resources. It could also impact recreation, water quality and quantity, the state's visual landscape and lead to the spread of noxious weeds.

The Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program (IHRMP) is a statewide Program was established to address this widespread concern for native California oaks. Now the Programs focus is on maintaining and increasing acreage of California's hardwood range resources. These woodlands provide wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, wood and livestock products, high quality water supply, and aesthetic value.

The Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) is a recently discovered insect that has been decimating coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) stands in Southern California, so far exclusively in San Diego County. There is considerable concern about GSOB, along with other insects and diseases that are currently attacking and causing mortality among the oaks of southern California.

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?

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