

From: Ohad Sheffy
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: The suggested cottonwood sandman's project
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 10:34:36 PM
Attachments: [The hidden social and environmental costs of sand mining _Cosmos.pdf](#)

Good evening.

As a resident of Rancho San Diego and a board certified family physician I would like to give my 2 cents as for the expected detrimental effects of sand mining so close to homes on the health of our community members. The suggested project is in very close proximity to homes and school. Exposure to particles released to the air during sand mining result in a major increase in the prevalence chronic lung diseases such as silicosis and asthma. Particularly vulnerable would be the kids at our area's schools and the elderly.

Here are a few links to expand on this subject:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/topics/silica.html>

http://csis.msu.edu/sites/csis.msu.edu/files/The%20hidden%20social%20and%20environmental%20costs%20of%20sand%20mining%20_%20Cosmos.pdf

I would be happy to expand further if you need more information.

Respectfully,

Ohad Sheffy, MD

From: sheryll zimmerman
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Fw: Sand mining in RSD
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 8:31:47 AM

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "sheryll zimmerman" <sheryl

Hi,

I want to voice my OPPOSITION to the proposed "Cottonwood Sand Mining Project" in Rancho San Diego. I developed asthma after the 2003 wildfires & have been chronically ill ever since. I'm concerned about the silica dust & exacerbation of my asthma. Additionally, I'm concerned about water contamination.

Thank you,

Sheryl L. Zimmerman

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: Kirsten Sisk
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: michaelsisk23@gmail.com
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 8:44:06 PM

Good evening Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to you in regard to the well-known sand mine issue and plans to move forward with this project in Rancho San Diego. For so many reasons, it should not be allowed in our community. I moved to this area in 1975 and after going away to college, came back and raised my children here. That sand mine would be a travesty to each and every one of us that live in and enjoy this area. I am sure you are aware of the issues the city of Oceanside is dealing with after U. S. Silica was done with the sand mine they owned up in that area. Along with the burden of having to restore the land, sand mines cause erosion and leave the remaining soil unstable. Some areas of that land in Oceanside are still "off-limits" to development because of lingering environmental concerns resulting from the mining that took place more than 25 years earlier.

It is bad enough that the golf course was destroyed, ruining the home values for so many people that live along it, but to further assault these people with a SAND MINE is absolutely hideous. In addition to the above travesty a sand mine would cause our area, the following are additional and equally important factors in making sure a sand mine should NEVER be allowed to be built in our area:

1. Road traffic/conditions - Willow Glen is already a dangerous road and this would be made worse by the trucks coming in and out of this area. Not only that, the pot holes and cracks we get on this road from the many trucks coming back and forth from the existing gravel pit (Robertson's Ready Mix Plant) down the road is already bad. To add more trucks on a daily basis is going to lead to further traffic, pollution, and the destruction of our roads.
2. Decreased property values - NO one, I mean NO ONE wants to live next to a sand mine. So, when people who own homes in this area find their property values destroyed, who is going to pay them the difference in their deteriorated value?
3. Noise - This area has definitely changed in the last 40 years and with traffic, it has gotten more noisy. However, it is still relatively quiet and peaceful. Bringing in the sand mines would ruin that for all time.
4. Pollution - Needless to say, this affect all of us and not for the better.
5. Destroying animal habitats - This area is known to many different species of birds and animals. A sand mine would displace them and potentially threaten species that are already on the endangered list.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I sincerely hope you

will listen to me and the MANY people of our community that for VERY good reasons, are opposing this project. It will alter the lives of many in our community and destroy a piece of land that will never be the same once a sand mine comes in and destroys it.

Respectfully,

Kirsten and Michael Sisk

619-602-9647

COMMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFECTS OF PROPOSED COTTONWOOD SAND MINING PROJECT.

I live on Royal Saint James Drive overlooking Willow Glen Drive in the vicinity of the proposed sand mining zone. Rancho San Diego is the lovely community I have lived in for over 25 years. We have great neighborhoods, parks, and schools. This is probably why so many families with young children live here. I love the fact that it is a safe place where kids can run and play and just be kids. Across the street (Hilton Head) from our neighborhood is Hilton Head Community Park, which has picnic pavilions, walking paths, a large sports playing field, basketball court and even a water spray park for small children. This is just one of the little neighborhoods that would be impacted by the proposed sand mining project.

I could complain about the obvious increased traffic congestion and noise that this project would cause in the area, and the negative impacts these nuisances would have on the quality of life within our neighborhoods, but the fact that the planning has progressed this far is evidence that our quality of life means very little to people who don't live in this community. Instead, please focus on facts and science and the long term public health impacts of this proposed mining project.

Looking on an area map, you can draw some simple directional lines representing the normal prevailing winds in this area. Given the vast scope of the proposed mining zone, how many neighborhoods, parks, homes and families are downwind of this area? What would be the health

impacts on children participating in outdoor sports or physical education or even playing in their own back yards if this project is allowed to proceed? Considering the normal prevailing winds in this valley, the adverse public health impacts of the sand mining would actually only be mitigated when there are Santa Ana winds, which bring their own unique health and safety challenges. Will anyone be researching or even contemplating what impact this sand mining will have on people with asthma, allergies, lung or bronchial ailments, or other respiratory related illnesses?

The area of the proposed sand pit mining has been a golf course for years. How many chemicals are contained in the soil from years of fertilizing (and pest control)? What happens when the soil containing these chemicals is agitating by industrial-scale mining? Add to this the normal fungi and bacteria that would be released into the environment by an open pit mining operation. Everyone has heard of Valley Fever, but we could be talking about results potentially much more devastating, given the geography and demographics of this area. We don't want to be on 60 minutes or in a class action lawsuit or cited in the text books as a horrible cautionary tale. This is completely avoidable. These are my comments for the record. Many eyes will be watching to see how our public officials protect the public welfare of county residents.

Regards,

Karen Smith



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2962 • Fax (858) 694-2555
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds

KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET
VERY OPPOSED TO THE COTTONWOOD SAND GRAVEL PROJECT
FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS

1. PROPERTY VALUES -
2. SAFETY FOR US WHO LIVE IN THE AREA.
3. TRAFFIC, BIG ISSUE - INCREASED
4. AIR POLLUTION - INCREASED
5. NOISE, INCREASED
6. HEALTH ISSUES - LONG TERM
7. ROAD ACCESS FOR TRUCKS FROM WILLOW ALLEN DRIVE
8. CLOSE TO SCHOOLS
9. WATER ISSUES - PEOPLE WITH WELLS - WATER TABLE
10. WATER DRAINAGE -
11. BICYCLISTS, JOGGERS - WALKERS - SAFETY
12. BIOLOGICAL ISSUES TO ENVIRONMENT
13. COMMUNITY AESTHETICS - DEGRADED
14. FUTURE - PROPOSED IVANHOE RANCH SUBDIVISION
WOULD CREATE POTENTIAL TRAFFIC PROBLEMS
FIRE ISSUES. SAFETY ISSUES

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Commenter Signature, Date

Michael A. Smith

Print Name

3387 GREYSTONE DRIVE

Address

JANU, Calif

91935

City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

Very opposed to the project (Cotton Wood Sand Mine)

This planning and development has not been thought out as to the effect on the community and home owners directly effected.

Health issues from the air quality as law suits develop from respiratory and other illnesses worsen.

Traffic but not just inconvenience but in an emergency, emergency vehicles could mean the difference between life and death. In a fire where there would be insufficient roads to evacuate.

Traffic, Air Quality, and Noise will all lower property values as these issues are things you must disclose as most people would oppose living in an area near the Cotton Wood Sand Mine.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Sharon Smith

Commenter Signature, Date

SHARON SMITH

Print Name

3387 Greystone Dr.

Address

Janel, Ca. 91935

City, State, Zip Code

From: Michael Soloway
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: [Andrea Soloway](#)
Subject: Sand Mine
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:22:12 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

WE STRONGLY OBJECT to the sand/mine gravel project at the Cottonwood Golf Courses. The property is surrounded by residential properties including ours. This is simply not an appropriate location for such an industry as this. Consequences will be **Noise Pollution, Traffic Congestion, Air Quality Degradation, and a Lowering of Property Values**, to name a few.

My husband bought 3109 Indian Mills Lane, Jamul, CA. 91935, a one acre parcel in 1994. It has been lovingly cultivated for twenty five years. We have created our retirement home for our seventies and beyond.

Our back property line is on rural Ivanhoe Ranch Road. Our back yard looks across this narrow road to the second green of the Ivanhoe course. Over the years we have heard shrieks of joy from golfers, expletives sometimes, coyotes in the night, the smack of the ball on the third tee, and maintenance equipment running before daylight. We have also heard the trucks coming in and out of the service entrance. We even imagined that someday homes would be built there.

WHAT WE OBJECT TO are the potential sounds from heavy equipment and multiple trucks mining, processing, loading and hauling away the spoils of the sand mining operation. We have heard accounts of blasts to loosen the material, the clunk, clunk, clunk of large conveyor belts to move the product from one area to another and long hours of operation that exceed agreed upon schedules.

THIS IS A RESIDENTIAL AREA, NOT AN INDUSTRIAL ONE!

We have lung and heart issues that could be exacerbated by the mining of the sand. We've heard concerns about Valley Fever caused by turning up the Silica dust. One of our neighbors has already lost part of a lung to Valley Fever.

Our quality of life would be greatly impacted.

Thank you for considering our very real concerns.

Sincerely,

Andrea Soloway
Resident
3109 Indian Mills Lane
Jamul, Ca. 91935

From: Michael Soloway
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: San Mine
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 1:27:01 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am a 74 year old senior residing at 3109 Indian Mills Lane, Jamul, Cal. 91935 since December, 1994. On an acre parcel our back yard is adjacent to hole number two on the Ivanhoe golf course. Over the years we have enjoyed the shouts of glee as a long putt was made from the many golfers playing the course. Unfortunately, during the past several years fewer golfers have been heard or seen as business has declined dramatically. But the open spaces, trees, clean air and country feeling remain.

The proposed "Sand Mine" would destroy all this beauty in addition to creating a health hazard for all local residents, young and old. I have heart issues and lung congestion. The silica and other debris created by this business endeavor would endanger my health and ultimately force us to sell our home. This is unacceptable for my household and for all my neighbors whose health would be affected and lives impacted.

Please consider our concern that a "Sand Mine" created in the middle of a residential neighborhood with gorgeous open spaces, animal life and a healthy topography is totally unconscionable.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael M. Soloway
Resident
3109 Indian Mills Lane
Jamul, Ca. 91935

From: <staffords@cox.net>

Date: November 21, 2019 at 5:21:39 PM PST

To: <info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.com>

Subject: Re: Community Input Needed!

Dear Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine,

There are many concerns that have been brought to the attention of the committees involved in the pursuit of this outrageous project and to those that are intent on preserving the community of Cottonwood.

First off, we suspect that this may have been in the works for sometime – to which most of us that have bought in the area were not informed at an earlier stage (we have lived in the area almost 38 years). This is our home, our children's play and learning area, business area and our investment. All of which will be impacted negatively with the completion of this sand mine.

Wild life, natural flora & fauna, schools, filling the air with more unhealthy silica and dust , noise levels, adding traffic to the already heavily travelled area of casino buses, trucks, semi's and everyday community travel are just some of the things that will be impacted and damaged heavily. Let alone the values of our property plummeting. It is one thing to knowingly buy into an area that has a sand mine in place already --- but to have the area be invaded by this proposed business after we have purchased, invested and made our lives here is another thing all together. Perhaps we would not have bought in the area had this possibility been disclosed to us. We also understand that this area is considered a sacred Native American grounds, This should not be desecrated out of respect for the history of these people.

We are concerned, outraged, shocked, disappointed and vehemently opposed to any further discussion or progress on this subject. How many meetings must we attend to voice the same concerns?

Sincerely,

John & Debbie Stafford

From: Robert Stall
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Opposition to Cottonwood Sand Pit Mining Proposal
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 8:39:45 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen (County Planner):

I am writing as a concerned citizen and a retired County management employee to express my strong opposition to the proposal to convert the former Cottonwood Golf Course in Rancho San Diego into an enormous sand mine that would operate for a decade or more.

When my wife and I purchased our home in Rancho San Diego 32 years ago, we were attracted by the natural beauty of the area. That was one of the main selling points used in advertising this new master-planned community. It is a great shame the picturesque Cottonwood golf course has ultimately proven to be financially unsustainable, but turning it into a huge sand pit mining operation would be a betrayal of the hopes and expectations of the thousands of residents who moved to this desirable area to raise their families and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Such a heavy industrial use would be totally inconsistent with the surrounding Rancho San Diego residential area, an area that is frankly one of the jewels of east county. The most logical and appropriate use for the Cottonwood golf course land would be further high quality residential development consistent with the longstanding character of the area.

The sand mine proposal also raises significant environmental and health concerns for the residents of Rancho San Diego and would present major traffic and noise problems in addition. Please do all you can to ensure that this proposed sand mine project is not approved.

Thank you,

Robert J. Stall, Jr., J.D.
11690 Via Bolsa
El Cajon, CA 92019
619-660-6621

From: Teresa Stark
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 7:57:27 AM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing today to voice my absolute opposition to the proposed sand mine at cottonwood golf course. I have been a resident of Rancho San Diego for over 30 years and enjoy the quiet country atmosphere of this community. As you are likely aware Rancho San Diego and the Cottonwood golf course property lie in a valley at the end of a four lane dividend freeway and Jamacha Rd. This road is already overly congested most of the day and is already the main pathway for several large sand and gravel trucks which create more congestion, back up and road hazards.

Our car windshields have been pitted and cracked on several occasions from sand, gravel and rocks being carried by these trucks, which is costly and dangerous for drivers. The area of cottonwood golf course and it's access roads of Steel Canyon and Jamacha Road is home to elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and a community college. The addition of hundreds of large truck trips daily creates dangerous situations to students and parents transporting their children to school daily.

Like my family, the residents of Rancho San Diego moved here to live and play in the peaceful and family oriented community we love. This area has already grown more than we had anticipated. Traffic in the area is horrible at all hours of the day and night. There is only one way in and out of this area and adding more truck traffic is unfair to the residents that call RSD home.

I hope that you will carefully consider the safety and comfort of the residents of this beautiful area of San Diego county when weighing the pros and cons of allowing this sand mine to open and operate. This sand mine does not belong in this residential area and should not it be allowed to open.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Teresa R Stark
11783 Via Rancho San Diego
El Cajon, Ca 92019

Sent from my iPad

From: Jennifer Stedman
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine Environmental Impact Report
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 4:37:14 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to share my comments in opposition of this sand mine project that is proposed in our residential area

I am a resident off Steele Canyon Road in the Pasatiempo development, and I have children that attend both Jamacha Elementary and Steele Canyon high school. I am extremely concerned about the health and environmental affects of this proposed mining. I cannot imagine that any report will find this type of mining and the safe for the health of children at a school so close to the site.

I do not agree with additional heavy traffic on Willow Glen and the area-there is too much already, and the intersections are already dangerous.

We do not want this sand mine in our backyard-literally. It does not belong in a residential area, and with the school so close. It is not healthy for my children, our neighborhood, or for the environment that depends on the watershed.

Thank you,
Jenny Stedman

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jacob Steen
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:45:01 AM

My name is Jacob Steen. I live across the street from Cottonwood golf course/proposed sand mining site. I have lived in my current home at 2830 Willow Glen Dr. for over two and half years. I previously lived above the golf course for 23 years.

When the pre-planned community of Rancho San Diego was first conceived of, the plan was to create a suburban area that included housing, schools, open space for recreating, and retail shopping. It was not designed to be an industrial/manufacturing area.

Those of us who live on or near Willow Glen Dr. already deal with the effects of the huge number of Robertson trucks from the quarry, that travel our road every day. Add to that, the massive bus and personal vehicle traffic that flows to Sycuan casino. The traffic is traveling at a high rate of speed, very much like a freeway. The idea of adding close to 200 more trucks a day is outrageous!

Families and people of all ages live in close proximity to this site. The degradation of the air quality, noise pollution, and the serious threat to road safety would be immense. This type of project should never be conducted so close to an established neighborhood.

I understand the need for construction sand. However, this in no way entitles an entity to come in and gut the lifestyle of a community that has been here for decades. Sand does not have to come from this environmentally sensitive site.

The reputation of the owner of this property, precedes itself, with actions of this individual in Poway and Escondido. If you open this door to allow this project, I fear there will be repercussions for years.

Please respect the community of Rancho San Diego by not approving the permits to allow the New West Investment Group, Inc. to go ahead with the "Cottonwood Sand Mining Project" on behalf of the property owner, Michael Schlesinger of Cottonwood Cajon Es, LLC.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,
Jacob Steen

From: Todd & Jane
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: opposed to the cottonwood sand mine[SUSPECTED SPAM]
Date: Monday, November 04, 2019 8:14:41 AM

Hello,

My name is S. Jane Steen. I live across the street from Cottonwood golf course/proposed sand mining site. I have lived in my current home at 2830 Willow Glen Dr. for over two and half years. I previously lived above the golf course for 23 years.

When the pre-planned community of Rancho San Diego was first conceived of, the plan was to create a suburban area that included housing, schools, open space for recreating, and retail shopping. It was not designed to be an industrial/manufacturing area.

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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,
S. Jane Steen

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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From: [Steven, Heather](#)
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: FW: opposed to cottonwood sand mine
Date: Friday, November 01, 2019 2:57:39 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Heather Steven

☎ 858.495.5802



County of San Diego
Diversity & Inclusion

From: Todd & Jane <tjsteen@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2019 2:42 PM
To: Steven, Heather <Heather.Steven@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: opposed to cottonwood sand mine

Hello,

My name is Todd Steen. I live across the street from Cottonwood golf course/proposed sand mining site. I have lived in my current home at 2830 Willow Glen Dr. for over two and half years. I previously lived above the golf course for 23 years and have been in the Rancho San Diego area since 1975.

When the pre-planned community of Rancho San Diego was first conceived of, the plan was to create a suburban area that included housing, schools, open space for recreating, and retail shopping. It was not designed to be an industrial/manufacturing area.

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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,
Todd Steen

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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From: Todd & Jane
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Please no sand mining at Cottonwood golf course
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:28:02 AM

My name is Todd Steen. I live across the street from Cottonwood golf course/proposed sand mining site. I have lived in my current home at 2830 Willow Glen Dr. for over two and half years. I previously lived above the golf course for 23 years and have been in the Rancho San Diego area since 1975.

When the pre-planned community of Rancho San Diego was first conceived of, the plan was to create a suburban area that included housing, schools, open space for recreating, and retail shopping. It was not designed to be an industrial/manufacturing area.

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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,
Todd Steen

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Zac Steen
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 4:34:51 PM

My name is Zachary Steen. I live on Dehesa Road and my parents live across the street from Cottonwood golf course/proposed sand mining site. I have lived in Rancho San Diego for 28 years.

When the pre-planned community of Rancho San Diego was first conceived of, the plan was to create a suburban area that included housing, schools, open space for recreating, and retail shopping. It was not designed to be an industrial/manufacturing area.

Those of us who live on or near Willow Glen Dr. already deal with the effects of the huge number of Robertson trucks from the quarry, that travel our road every day. Add to that, the massive bus and personal vehicle traffic that flows to Sycuan casino. The traffic is traveling at a high rate of speed, very much like a freeway. The idea of adding close to 200 more trucks a day is outrageous!

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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

Zachary Steen

From: laurie steinhauser
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 1:58:21 PM

Dear Sir,

When my family purchased our home in a master-planned community 30 years ago never did we dream there would be even a consideration of having to live with the negative effects of a sand mine in our backyard.

Please add us to the list of families who are totally against this happening to our beautiful community.

Thank you,
Aaron and Laurie Steinhauser

Sent from my iPad

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From: Donna Stephan
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sand mine RSF
Date: Monday, November 04, 2019 3:30:40 PM

Hello, I'm Donna Stephan. My residence is right behind the proposed property for the sand mine. I object to this project due to increased traffic which is already a problem with the elementary school. If a fire evacuation was to take place all the residents south of Willow Glen will be in arm's way 1 lane only to exit over the steel canyon bridge! Also the home values would drop considerably from the purchase causing a hardship. Thank you, Donna Stephan

Sent from my iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the County network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you are unsure, forward the email to spam.protection@sdcounty.ca.gov<<mailto:spam.protection@sdcounty.ca.gov>>.

From: Wanda and John Strongosky
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Questions to the EIR about the Sand PIT at cottonwood golf course.
Date: Friday, November 08, 2019 4:05:24 PM

First off I would like to thank you for being so patient with us as we were pretty mad.....

My question to be answered by the eir is about the wells that we have and where are they going to get their water..by digging wells deeper thus lowering the water table for us and we have to dig our wells deeper or dredging the ponds deeper thus exposing the water to the pesticide and herbicide that has settled in the bottom of the ponds. Also their is a case tried by the Supreme Court about polluting the ground water by pumping sewage underground (County of Maui vs the Hawaii Wildlife Fund)... I think this could be used to stop this because of the pollution they would be doing to the ground water by the runoff etc...

Vr

John M. Strongosky
Sent from my iPad

Date: [Lorie Sturgeon sycuantribe@cox.net](mailto:Lorie.Sturgeon@sycuantribe@cox.net)
5463 Sycuan Road
El Cajon, CA 92019-1821

To: Bronwyn Brown, Project Planner (Bronwyn.Brown@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: **Major Use Permit 18-023: The Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Ms. Brown,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM, with loading and truck transport to begin even earlier at 4:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. Where in the Major Use Permit application are the plans to mitigate any of these significant impacts? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open-pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you not recommend approval of this Major Use Permit.

Sincerely,

Lorie M. Sturgeon

From: Alan Talia
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Alan Talia (Sand mine)
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 10:30:22 AM

Good morning Mr Robert, I am against the rancho San Diego golf course Sand mine for multiple reasons, first reason is there are so many schools surrounding the area that it will affect all the children and their health from the all the dust pollution. Second, safety and the traffic it will cause in an already congested area. Third, the elimination of plants and wildlife in the area and the pollution of the sweet water river that flows throw the whole course. Fourth, the house values will drop significantly. I've worked my whole life to afford a house here and this project will ruin everything I've worked for and will hurt me and my neighbors equally. This is such a residential area that this project will ruin the whole neighborhood and affect all the kids Heath around it and might suffer from long term health from this project, and I hope all the schools and kids families around it realize how dangerous this is and serious. Thank you so much for your time Mr Roberts and I hope the committee look long and hard about this issue, thanks again.

Date: November 5, 2019
From: Steven Talia
(steventalia@yahoo.com)
1689 Lawndale Rd.
El Cajon, CA 92019
To: Bronwyn Brown, Project Planner (Bronwyn.Brown@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: **Major Use Permit 18-023: The Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Ms. Brown,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM, with loading and truck transport to begin even earlier at 4:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. Where in the Major Use Permit application are the plans to mitigate any of these significant impacts? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

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Sincerely,

Steven Talia

From: Bob Taylor
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 12:01:22 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project. I have lived across or beside that golf course since 1989. I know others will cite point after point to make their case based on law, diminished property value, safety, traffic, environment, noise, dust, aesthetics. Let them do that. I won't repeat that, you get the point. If you don't get the point, then me saying it again won't help.

My point is simple: It's too late for that golf course to become a sand mine. Period. If we were discussing a sand mine or oil well on Fifth Ave downtown, there'd be no discussion. Why? Because it's too late. You cannot build a community and drop a sand mine smack in the middle of it later. It's too late. That use should have been done first, closed up, and then the community built, right?

It's too freaking late. The opportunity simply does not exist now, and any thinking that would allow it would be corrupt by disregarding normal logic of how it is that we live and govern.

By contrast it is not too late to convert it into something like a housing development. I would not oppose that. But a sand mine? Forget it.

Thanks for listening,

Sincerely,

Bob Taylor
Taylor Guitars

From: Cindy Taylor
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report input for Cottonwood San Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:54:40 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I wish to write to strongly oppose the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine project in Rancho San Diego. I have many concerns about how this project could impact our neighborhood.

We live one block away, directly behind the golf course. We purchased this home 10 years ago, and paid a premium for this neighborhood, because of it's location and proximity to a golf course. I am certain that this mining project for such a sustained period will have the effect of driving our home values drastically down. Will our property taxes be likewise reduced for the duration? And if we cannot tolerate the noise and dust and would decide to move, we would likely take a huge loss on the price of our home. However, we do not want to move! We looked for many years at homes on this street, and waited to purchase our home here. We love our home and our beautiful neighborhood, and would feel cheated of our beautiful surroundings if this project goes through, and our outside experience is completely colored by noise, traffic, and dust.

We have a well that is 50 feet deep. I have huge concerns about the contamination of our well water if mining is to the depth of 35 feet. If we have water at 50 feet, and the golf course is lower than us, there is a high probability that there is water at a shallower depth in the golf course. I is my understanding that there is a large underground aquafir under this area. If one part is contaminated, it will affect us all.

We have planted a large organic garden on 1/5 of an acre of our property. We feed our family, as well as our two daughter's families and another family with produce from our garden. I have large concerns about water contamination for our organic garden, as well as the dust/sediment/particulate matter than most likely will be covering our garden with our close proximity to the mining operation.

My other concerns likely mirror others you have heard, but I wanted to write to your re: my personal concerns.

Thank you for considering all aspects of this issue as you write your report.

Sincerely,

Cindy Taylor
3450 Par Four Dr.
El Cajon, CA. 92019.

From: Kenya Taylor
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Subject: Re: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 1:45:31 PM

Hello Robert,
Thank you for your email.
I am a concerned resident living in the Cottonwood Community.
Please continue to add me to your distributions.
Best,
Kenya Taylor

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

From: Hingtgen, Robert J <Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>
To: Hingtgen, Robert J <Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Sent: Fri, Oct 25, 2019 4:30 pm
Subject: FW: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine

Hi,
I'm trying to rectify several email addresses for which the following message did not get through yesterday. Hopefully this gets to you.

Good Morning,
Please see the attached Legal Advertisement/Public Review Notice (notice) for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mining project.

You are included in a blind carbon copy email group and are receiving this notice as your contact information was provided to the Department of Planning & Development Services.

A link to the Cottonwood NOP documentation is available at the following webpage:
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/ceqa_public_review.html. You may review this documentation and provide written comments during the NOP period from October 24, 2019 (today) through 4:00 P.M. on Friday November 22, 2019 (a 30-day period).

The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the project and its potential environmental effects to those who wish to comment regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis that will be included in the EIR.

As stated in the notice, County staff will conduct a public scoping meeting at the Hillsdale Middle School at 1301 Brabham Street in Rancho San Diego on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

You may contact Heather Steven at heather.steven@sdcounty.ca.gov or (858) 495-5802 or Robert Hingtgen at robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov or (858) 694-3712 if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
MS O-650
(858) 694-3712
robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

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**SPEAKER SLIP
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR
NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME

Wendy	Tinsley Becker
First	Last

4594 Mayapan Dr. La Mesa

ADDRESS: Number Street City

CA 91941 (619) 302-0425

State Zip Telephone

Wendy@urbanapreservation.com

Email address

Re: ^{is there} Precedent in giving priority to mining and reclamation approval OR issuing Statement of Overriding Considerations?

Elizabeth Urquhart
eaurquhart@icloud.com
(619) 405-3252



Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org. Save Our Community

Website: stopcottonwoodsandmine.org
Email: info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.org

TALKING POINTS

A Sand Mine located in the center of a developed residential community will degrade the quality of the environment by creating traffic safety hazards, harming air quality, adding significant greenhouse gas emissions, eliminating plants & wildlife, destroying cultural resources, and changing the beautiful, peaceful environment we now live in to one that is noisy and dangerous. SANDAG's 2011 San Diego Region Aggregate Supply Study, of which the Sand Mine developer (EnviroMINE, Inc.) was part of the expert panel review, indicates that sand mines should be located on areas not developed and have not been conserved for environmental reasons. This is simply an inappropriate location for a Sand Mine!

1. **Project must be consistent with San Diego County General Plan, Valle De Oro Community Plan, and Rancho San Diego Specific Plan** – the proposed Sand Mine project is not consistent with all plan policies.
2. **Traffic Safety Hazard** – cumulative impact to traffic, safety and emergency evacuation routes must be considered; in addition to proposed Sand Mine, the Enclave at Ivanhoe Ranch is planning 119 residences adjacent to the site. Already congested use of Jamul Drive, Steele Canyon Road, and Willow Glen Road cannot handle additional heavy use.
3. **Land Use & Community Character** – the character of the area is developed and consists of residential, recreational, civic and open space uses. The RSD Specific Plan identifies the Cottonwood Golf Course serving as a buffer area and providing a larger setback to sensitive habitat areas. A Sand Mine will destroy sensitive habitat areas.
4. **Major Use Permit Findings** – proposed use requires that location, size, design and operating characteristics be compatible with adjacent uses – residences and nearby buildings. The proposed Sand Mine will have a harmful effect upon RSD's desirable neighborhood character; the generation of traffic; the capacity and physical character of surrounding streets; and, the suitability of the site for the type and intensity of use or development which is proposed.
5. **Biological Resources** – the area contains jurisdictional waters of the State of California and the United States, including protected wetlands, requiring approval from State and Federal resource agencies. Several federally endangered and threatened species have been identified on or in the vicinity of the proposed project site (site is adjacent to the National Wildlife Refuge). The site is also within the South County and Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segments of the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) designated preserve areas.
6. **Visual Resources** – Willow Glen Drive is designated as a County Scenic Road. Impacts to travelers using this road, persons walking and bicycling the road, and residences along the ridges that view this road must be considered.
7. **Air/Noise/Altered Hydrogeologic Conditions** – proposed Sand Mine would significantly impact the environment potentially harming residents, plant and animal species, water and the land. Such harm to human beings and our environment must take priority over temporary private financial gain.
8. **Sweetwater River** – the Sweetwater Authority documented that the Sand Mine proposes a variety of activities that could significantly increase pollution of the Sweetwater Reservoir. This source of drinking water must be protected.
9. **Cultural Resources** – numerous archaeological resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the proposed Sand Mine site. Significant impact to tribal cultural resources is likely.
10. **Sensitive Populations At-Risk** – sensitive populations include schools, resident care facilities, and facilities and residences that house individuals with health conditions (children & elderly) would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. Proposed Sand Mine identified residences and nearby Jamacha Elementary school as at-risk however they must also study impact to Adeona, an 80-bed residential treatment facility for adolescents which is adjacent to the Sand Mine site on Steele Canyon Road, the YMCA within a quarter mile of the property site, and La Vida Real, a senior living residence, which is about a half mile from the site.

From: Carlos Valencia
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:08:52 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded into large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the county, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from the mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children and animals. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend on the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship

of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project/s Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely

Carlos and Linda Valencia
11590 Avenida Marcella
El Cajon, Ca. 92019

11/22/2019

From: Connie Via
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 3:15:25 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

This proposal is a terrible use of land that would cause the persons living in the area to have their lives totally disrupted for years. Sand pollution, noise pollution, traffic pollution, water pollution and a huge loss of property value to those poor souls that bought homes on the golf course years ago!

I cannot even believe this is being considered as a good use of this precious land not to mention that there is a waterway directly in the path of this sand mine. It is always about money. Perhaps you are doing your home work and will make the right decision and oppose this sand mine. If you approve such a proposal remember that you are putting the people in the area at risk for long term health issues!!!

Thank you for your time,

Connie Via

13571 Vista Sage Lane, Jamul, Ca. 91935

From: Connie Via
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sand Mine on Cottonwood Golf course--Do the right thing and vote "no"
Date: Thursday, November 07, 2019 3:43:41 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

My husband Joe and I live nearby the proposed site of the sand mine. I hope you carefully review this proposal by Schlesinger to turn this special, quiet piece of land into a site for the removal of 7 million tons of mineral resources!!!!!!!!!!!!

Who gains from the pollution of the air, the increase in an over crowded two lane road, the noise that would be generated from 9:00am until 3:30pm for 10 years during this removal, the destruction of habitat, not to mention the health risks from breathing sand in the air? This is so unbelievable that a proposal like this would be suggested that we cannot even imagine anyone would consider it. Imagine if you built your home on this golf course and now there is a sand mine in your backyard. Does a landowner deserve a disaster situation like this after purchasing their property? What if you were the home owner, how would you vote?

We are hoping you have not been paid off to vote "yes." Thank you for your time.

Connie and Joe Via
13571 Vista Sage Lane
Jamul, California. 91935



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2962 • Fax (858) 694-2555
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds

KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

There are no positive results in approving the Cottonwood Sand Mine permit other than making one business owner wealthy. Negative results from this venture include destroying a planned residential community with increased traffic, noise and air pollution, declining home values, and decreasing property taxes for the County. If the County does eventually approve this permit, the County should immediately start designating millions of dollars each year of their budget to a legal defense fund to pay for future lawsuits against the County for allowing the sand pit to operate & creating massive health illnesses to local residents.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Greg Villard 11/4/19 local resident

Greg Villard
3321 Cottonwood Springs Lane
Janel, CA 91935

Commenter Signature, Date

Print Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

From: D WALLACE
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Enviornmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 8:36:56 PM
Attachments: [sand mining project.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Hingtgen

I have attached two letters one from myself as well as my husband. We were at the community meeting at Hillsdale regarding the Sand Mining Project. We are both strongly opposed as we have lived here 26 years and the proposed site is right in the middle of schools, homes and the YMCA were all of our families play outside. This sand mine project would ruin the air especially during Santa Ana wind season where no child or adult could go outside for fear of Silica causing lung disease which has been proven to be a medical issue. Also the traffic would be loud and way too many trucks on a 2 lane road that already is overly used with buses going to Casinos and other normal traffic.

Please read our letters and consider this project from the family view point of community living being totally diminished with this project.

From: D WALLACE
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Enviornmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 8:42:12 PM
Attachments: [sand_mining_project.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Hingtgen

I have attached two signed letters one from myself as well as my husband. We were at the community meeting at Hillsdale regarding the Sand Mining Project. We are both strongly opposed as we have lived here 26 years and the proposed site is right in the middle of schools, homes and the YMCA were all of our families play outside. This sand mine project would ruin the air especially during Santa Ana wind season where no child or adult could go outside for fear of Silica causing lung disease which has been proven to be a medical issue. Also the traffic would be loud and way too many trucks on a 2 lane road that already is overly used with buses going to Casinos and other normal traffic.

Please read our letters and consider this project from the family view point of community living being totally diminished with this project.

Thank you

Diane Wallace and Gary Wallace

Date: November 21, 2019
From: gdswallace@cox.net (Gary Wallace)
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

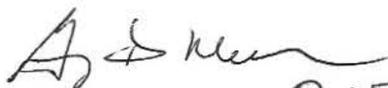
I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

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Sincerely,



2033 Arrow Ct.
El Cajon, CA 92019

Date: November 21, 2019
From: gdswallace@cox.net (Diane Wallace)
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Diane Wallace
2033 Arrow Ct,
El Cajon, CA 92019

From: Jackie Warren
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: sand mine
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 6:41:36 AM

PLEASE help us stop the owner of Cottonwood Golf course from turning our community into a sand mine! My understanding is that this area is a nature preserve and zoned for recreation. If sand mining is happening it will endanger our health and bring unnecessary traffic, noise and air pollution to our school, Jamacha Elementary. The students do not need to be breathing dust all day.

Thank you for considering this issue,
Jackie Warren
Teacher, Jamacha Elementary



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2962 • Fax (858) 694-2555
www.sdcountry.ca.gov/pds

KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I am concerned about the restoration plan, specifically regarding trails & connections from the USF&W property onward toward connection to the California Riding & Hiking Trail to the east. We need parks & active restoration. We need to have succumans & oaks to replace the impact to existing trees at a high ratio.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Miles Waters 11/4/19
Commenter Signature, Date

Miles Waters
Print Name

3585 Fowler Canyon Road
Address

Jamul, CA 91935
City, State, Zip Code

From: Sue Waters
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 8:15:06 PM

Hi Robert:

Please see the following comments from me regarding the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project:

Please provide cumulative impact analysis of mining operations of existing Hester's Granite Pit and proposed Sand Mining Projects regarding Air Quality, Visual, Noise and truck trips.

Please provide analysis of the Sand Mining Project using truck trips vs conveyor belt/rail car regarding air quality, noise impacts and visual. Also provide information of duration of time and noise decibel of conveyor system. Will the residents along Willow Glen Road and the Par Four area be subjected to heightened and prolong noise levels?

Please analyze the height of the proposed equipment and the visual impact it will have both from the Steele Canyon Road/Bridge and the surrounding residents.

Please provide analysis of the impact this project will have on the endangered species, the Wildlife Refuge and the wildlife corridor.

Provide detailed mitigation measures during bird breeding season as there are least bell vireo and gnatcatchers in the area. What kind of buffer area/fencing will be provided?

The plans show the FEMA floodway but not the centerline of the Sweetwater River. Because this project is proposed to be conducted within the Sweetwater River channel please explain the plan of removing equipment and conveyor system to prevent impacting Wildlife Refuge downstream during significant rain events over the planned 10 year period of this project.

Will there be an operational plan to cease operations during heightened fire danger and Santa Ana wind warnings?

Regarding the Reclamation Plan:
Page 1)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->#8- Explain noise levels and time of day for operations of Major Use permit within this residential community.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Project Phasing - Phase 1 - Explain the "improvement" of 10 of 84 acres impacted

within the river channel

- Explain area and detail of proposed "Establishment of pads suitable for future development, what is the proposed

development?

Page 2)

- There are notations of wells being removed. The assumption is they will be abandoned, correct? Please provide details and analysis of water source for operations and the impact to existing

wells to surrounding area.

- The stockpile area on the south side of the river are within the 100 year and FEMA floodplain. Will significant rain events impact the stockpile?

Page 10)

- Please change width of 5' wide trail to adhere to County's Trail standard to accommodate multi use trail use
- Add trail connections to Willow Glen Road, Steele Canyon, wildlife refuge and future/proposed development along Jamul Road instead of keeping connections and just "loops" within the parcels.

Thank you,
Sue Waters

From: K Watson
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 6:48:55 AM

Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

Mr. Hingtgen,

Respectfully I am apposed to this project. Not only for health concerns, but increasing the construction traffic we already deal with because of the rock quarry.

My concern with the sand mine project are regards to the negative effect it will have on the health and safety of the RSD community. The riparian rights of surrounding families will be violated due to ground water contamination used in wells, drinking and irrigation. Of grave concern is the silica dust excavation byproduct. The American Lung Association identifies silica dust as a carcinogen. Excavation site studies have revealed that silica dust is deposited onto the surface streets used by sand-filled trucks. EPA analysis consistently confirms dangerous levels of silica particles in the air and ground. School-aged children and toddlers in the aforementioned schools, community members and work place sites will be exposed to silica dust for a minimum of ten years with detrimental results. People with respiratory issues will live a more endangered, shortened life.

In summary, my family stands with the RSD community in opposition of the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project.

Thank you again for your attention to the stated concerns and inclusion into your report.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathy Watson

Sent from my amazing smart phone.

From: [Brown, Bronwyn](#)
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: FW: COTTONWOOD SAND MINE
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:53:43 AM

From: Valerie Wayson <xpickles@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 9:53 AM
To: Brown, Bronwyn <Bronwyn.Brown@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Steven, Heather <Heather.Steven@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: COTTONWOOD SAND MINE

I am writing to voice my STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed major use permit.

THE NEEDS OF THE FEW-SHOULD NOT OUT WEIGH THE NEEDS OF THE MANY!!!

One property owner can spoil the land, water and peacefulness of the valley for all with this proposed sand mine.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?
WHAT ABOUT THE AIR QUALITY?
WHAT ABOUT THE ANIMALS?
WHAT ABOUT THE ELDERLY?
WHAT ABOUT THE PROPERTY VALUES?
WHAT ABOUT NOISE POLLUTION?
WHAT ABOUT THE TRAFFIC & SAFETY?
WHAT ABOUT THE WATER?
WHAT ABOUT THE ARTIFACTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE in the RIVERBED?

ALL FOR ONE PROPERTY OWNER TO MAKE SOME MONEY?

PLEASE MITIGATE ALL THESE PROBLEMS FIRST and FOREMOST

and remember your JOB-- FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD!!

Thank you,
Valerie Wayson

619-990-6622

Robert Hingtgen
Planner 3
County of San Diego
Re: PDS2018-MUP-18-023
PDS2018-RP-18-001
PDS2018-ER-18-19-007

Dear Mr. Hingtgen;

This letter is to provide commentary for the Notice of Preparation and to express my opposition to the open pit sand mining operations in the Sweetwater River at the Cottonwood Golf Course.

Additional points which have not been properly or adequately addressed in the Developer's presentation to date and need to be addressed are as follows:

1- Use of grading equipment in the open-pit mine will need to cross the Sweetwater River channel to excavate the sand. In fact, based on the NOB this open-pit mine is excavating a deeper river channel leaving the pollutants that their machinery emit or leak in the river channel. These actions will cause harm to the river channel and put pollution into the river from Cottonwood Golf Course (GWGC) down to the Sweetwater Reservoir and all points in between such as the Federal Wildlife Refuge.

2- Having one water truck to handle dust control on the property is inadequate for an open-pit mine. This would be most evident when the area is subject to a Santa Ana wind condition. In a Santa Ana wind event sand and dust from this open-pit mine will blow throughout the adjoining communities of Jamul, El Cajon, Rancho San Diego, Spring Valley and La Mesa. One of the nicest attributes of the Valley is the gentle coastal breeze that flows up the Sweetwater River Valley cooling the Rancho San Diego community because of the breeze fugitive dust pollution from the open pit mining operations will blanket homes, schools and streets causing more dirt to go into the storm drain system and increasing respiratory illnesses for all residents within a mile or more of the mine. Currently the grass on the golf course prevents dust from blowing into surrounding neighborhoods.

3- There is no provision for street sweeping on Willow Glen Rd. or any of the surrounding streets for the fugitive dust and dirt that falls off the transport vehicles when leaving the open pit mine property or blows outside the limits of the mine. This dirt and dust will be washed into the storm drain system and foul the coastal sea water.

4- Staging of semi-truck sized dirt hauling vehicles at the CWGC parking lot entrance and exit creates a dangerous traffic condition. When leaving CWGC, the semis will be pulling out onto Willow Glen Rd. which to the immediate right of the CWGC has a small rise in the road blocking the view of drivers who are coming out of the CWGC exit. The oncoming traffic, which is traveling at 45+ miles an hour cannot see or be seen due to the rise in the road. The drivers will be confronted by a semi-truck pulling its load across the road blocking the whole width of the road as the semi-truck head west on Willow Glen Rd. to deliver its load of sand. This will leave the driver with little time to react and no place to steer to avoid a broadside crash into the semi-truck or its trailer(s). I can speak from personal experience because I have tried to exit the Cottonwood Golf Course from that exit point in a passenger car and find it at best difficult and somewhat nerve-wracking to exit safely.

5- Likewise when pulling off Willow Glen Road trucks will be slowing down to take a right turn into the CWGC truck staging area creating backups. It is likely to have several trucks slowing and stopping at the entrance to the open-pit mine as they try to stage for their next pick up creating a dangerous unexpected traffic backup on Willow Glen Rd. when heading east on Willow Glen.

6-Biking lanes and running trails are immediately adjacent to the proposed open-pit mine on both sides of Willow Glen Rd. The runners and the bikers will be put at health risk and physical risk by the substantial semi-truck traffic that will occur should this open-pit mining operation be

approved. This will destroy two of the great recreational activities of the residents of the surrounding communities that utilize these bike lanes and running trails daily.

7- Another issue is that service vehicles for all of the equipment and trucks will be doing maintenance on-site outside the proposed operating hours. This will cause unnecessary noise and continued disruption to the surrounding residences and habitats. The Developer cannot service its equipment when they are using the equipment during the business hours allowed under the proposed MUP. The result will be that the service companies have to work on the mining equipment and trucks outside the proposed hours of operation expanding the disruptions to the homes in the surrounding communities.

8- Currently there are several mature cottonwood trees on the course in the areas of the proposed excavation. Those trees have been there for decades. The proposed reclamation only puts in small potted trees requiring further decades of growth to get back to the size that they are currently leaving the excavated land basically looking barren of mature trees.

9- This proposed open pit mine is immediately adjacent to and abuts the Jamul/ Dulzura Planning area. Yet the Jamul/Dulzura Planning area has not been asked to assess and offer its observations regarding the impacts of this proposed open-pit mine to the residents in its communities. Request is made that this application for an MUP be sent to and officially reviewed by the Jamul/Dulzura Planning Group with public meetings so their recommendation can also be shared with the SD County Planning Dept. and the SD County Planning Commission

10- It is essential that the agencies identified in the County's Scoping Letter of May 31, 2019, as well as any other affected agencies, be included in the EIR notification process as well as the required approvals for the project. This should be regardless of any planned reduction in project scope by the applicant since the Scoping Letter was issued. At minimum, those agencies include:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Transportation, California State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water, California Department of Water Resources – Division of Safety of Dams, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Southern California Area Office, San Diego County Water Authority – Water Resources Department, Sweetwater Authority, Otay Water District, San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, Grossmont Union High School District, Cajon Valley Union School District, Jamul-Dulzura Union School District, and Local Native American Tribes.

11- Impacts to the horse and the equestrian trails immediately adjustment to CWGC need to be investigated and assessed regarding sound, access and health issues from disruption from the sand materials during the mining of sand, such as Valley Fever.

12-The Developer Fails To Adequately Analyze and Describe Mitigation for Noise and Light Impacts to Wildlife.

Although the Developer attempts to propose some parochial actions to minimize the impact of noise from Projects to humans, it makes virtually no attempt to measure or mitigate the impacts of noise to any of the wildlife species known to be on and in proximity to the site, both noise impacts during construction and for the life of the Project. It completely omits this despite the fact that the impacts of both noise and artificial lighting are known to negatively impact wildlife across all taxa, including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. This is also surprising in light of the fact that it is standard operating protocol for developments to use sound barriers and other means to reduce impacts of anthropogenic sounds (technophony) to threatened and endangered species including the California Gnatcatcher and the Least Bell Vireo; in fact any construction that averages/exceeds 60dB over the course of an hour at a time must be mitigated for development that occurs in proximity to California Gnatcatcher breeding territory. This huge omission needs to be addressed to begin to propose how they intended to reduce the impacts of noise on all wildlife not just humans and the Gnatcatcher. As such the appropriate

measurements and analysis of noise impacts- including measurements of not only loudness but also duration, frequency, cumulative noise levels, and actual degree of attenuation of sounds that will be made by the construction vehicles and devices onsite must be conducted before any further analysis of impact mitigation can be accurately considered and analyzed.

13-CWGC is an area with high biological value in which conservation will be encouraged.

The Applicant is seeking to incorporate an almost 200+ acre pit mining development, with all of its associated pollutants, disturbances, and habitat destruction over a minimum of 10 years. The Developer repeatedly bases its entire argument of successful mitigation upon a pie-in-the-sky presumption of completely successful restoration and reclamation of the Project- at an undetermined date a minimum of 12 years in the future- upon at which time the site will meet such 'high value' requirements of biodiversity, species richness, and undisturbed habitat quality. In other words, the Developer is basing the claim that all significant impacts will be reduced to less than significant based upon a theoretical plan, not an on-the-ground reality in the form of viable habitat.

Additionally, the Developer's proposals have not guaranteed to use alternatives in case onsite restoration failures despite the demonstrated infamous track record of many sand and gravel mining operations locally and throughout California. A review of the status of many aggregate mine reveals they partly to completely fail not only at restoration but also baseline reclamation (see more on this discussion, below). The Developer offers zero guarantee of habitat mitigation where they could and should.

14-The restoration plan sets zero performance standards or criteria for what will be joined to the MUP.

As if this weren't poor enough strategy offered, the "mitigation" measures also include taking what they generically describe as "overburden" and dumping it back on the site to "improve habitat". First, if merely dumping some form unwanted mining by-product improves habitat, then this should be a primary component of the restoration plans for the Project site. It is not, perhaps because it is not founded in any scientific conclusions whatsoever.

Increased traffic by heavy trucks and other heavy equipment, new roads, access driveways, and parking areas are an inevitable part of mining development sites. This increases the risk of direct disturbance of all species current on the site by fragmentation.

The Developer's biological resource mitigation is fatally flawed because it relies solely on reclamation and restoration (habitat revegetation) as the only form of compensatory mitigation for destruction and other impacts to each and every habitat on and adjacent to the project site, along with the protected species that use the CWGC as a corridor or live on CWGC. It does not offer appropriate mitigation in the form of in-kind, replacement or any other form of established, undisturbed parcel to compensate for all of the habitat that negatively impacted by the Project. This reality is on top of the fact that the Project will not only cause impacts during the grading and construction phase; but the associated air, water, noise, congestion and impacts to surrounding native habitats will be ongoing for the life of the project. The following describes the many flaws associated with this reliance on restoration as the only compensatory mitigation strategy and should be required before this plan is considered for approval.

A) The success of future restoration as the only compensatory mitigation relies on many variables and parasitic insect invasion, soil stability, quality, and availability, instability and competition in the sand market, lack of reliability of the Applicant's financial integrity for costs 12 to 20 years in the future- to name only a few. In short, the Developer's entire premise of impacts to habitats being mitigated exclusively via restoration amounts to a theoretical premise that cannot be guaranteed to any extent, and indeed is not supported by much of the available evidence regarding short term success, or more correctly lack thereof, of similar proposed restoration projects for sand and other aggregate mines, especially in respect to riparian habitat restoration.

B) Restoration is at best an imperfect science and the restoration plan do not appear to be adequately familiar with that complex science. There are a host of pitfalls and challenges associated with even the most advantageous restoration scenario, which this proposal and site is not for any reasons. As former SDSU professor and one of the foremost experts in restoration ecology, Dr. Joy Zedler describes "success" in restoration is an extremely elusive benchmark, where merely defining success itself is a challenge, not to mention actually achieving it. For

some key evidence supporting why the Developer's restoration plan is poised to fail to a large extent as presented.

C) The Developer suggests that all habitat restoration will tidily succeed two (2) years after each section of the sand mining operation ends and after ten (10) years of mining, on schedule, as part of a two (2) year restoration effort per segment, or restoration effort. And yet the realities about the sand mining market in San Diego do not match the claims in the Developer's restoration plan. Even a cursory review of the sand market in San Diego County, and California, defy the assumptions that underlie the proposed sand mine project's viability, namely that sand is an extremely rare commodity not readily available locally, and that mining of sand is a predictable, unquestionably lucrative, and static market.

D) The Developer claims that sand is a regionally scarce commodity and an invaluable resource is not accurate. As proof one need only review the data available on the regional sand mine market to appreciate that the Developer's assumptions of local sand scarcity, and the resultant success of the relatively very short-lived mine (10 years) is deeply flawed. San Diego County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Mineral Resource provide a list of all locations within the county where "extensive" sampling has indicated the presence of a significant mineral deposit in the form of sand or similar aggregate. Locations where such is deemed still extractable and may be of regional or statewide significance amount to a total of 62,410 acres. This hardly paints a picture of extreme scarcity.

As important for consideration is the track record of sand and gravel mines, their closure, and subsequent reclamation. The assumption that this mine will provide an invaluable resource but will the willingly shut down after a mere ten (10) years having extracted its (extremely optimistic) projected amounts of product, is not supported by history. According to the data from the California Department of Conservation Division of Mine Reclamation, as of 2017 there are 1,141 sand and gravel mines on record in the state (the DEC acknowledges they are still compiling their database and it is not totally complete), 72% of these are over twelve (12) years old, and 40% of them have officially been deemed 'reclamation not started'. Of these sand and gravel mines deemed "reclamation not started", 45% are no longer active and yet have failed to even commence reclamation. Many of these mining operations modified their original reclamation plans as set down in their original environmental review prior to acquiring a MUP,

and applied for extensions of their MUP; a very realistic scenario for many mines, the proposed open pit sand mine included.

According to this same Department, reclamation under SMARA is further defined as follows:

“The process of reclamation includes maintaining water and air quality, minimizing flooding, erosion and damage to wildlife and aquatic habitats caused by surface mining. The final step in this process is often topsoil replacement and revegetation with suitable plant species.”

In light of this evidence, and the poor track record of even baseline, results for reclamation for sand mines even after they have closed, the assumptions about their timeline and success of their compensatory mitigation’s successful creation are not well supported because of the complex ecology of native habitats with all of the many interconnected variables involved.

E) All Water Wells in the Surrounding Communities Will Suffer the Effects of Reduced Ground Cover. Mining sand and gravel, without replacement in kind, will reduce the distance from the soil surface to the groundwater. This action has the following effects:

i. Reduction in Groundwater Storage. Groundwater infiltrates into the ground from river flow, rain, ect. Not all water can infiltrate the aquifer-proper, but us held in the sand until a pressure reduction allows it to enter the aquifer-proper. The aquifer pressure is reduced when groundwater is pumped, or as the water flows underground. Removal of the “holding” material (i.e. sand and gravel) can result in less water being positioned to enter the aquifer.

ii. Increased Evaporation. Solar heat rays penetrate the soil surface, and travel to a depth commensurate with the soil type and existing heat load. From a practical point of view, the less soil above the groundwater available to absorb heat, the higher the resulting groundwater temperature and potential for evaporation. The reduction if ground cover from thirty-five to forty-one (35-41) feet to about zero (0) feet has the effect described above. Increased evaporative losses would reduce the amount of groundwater available.

iii. Declination of Water Quality. Water entering the soil, is “cleaned” as it infiltrated. A reduction in the volume of soil above the aquifer is also a reduction in the naturally-attenuative, filtering properties of the soil. With less of this natural filtration, lower water quality is allowed to enter the aquifer and the groundwater quality is reduced.

F) The proposed open pit mine may create discontinuities in several of the aquifer's natural properties, some of which may disrupt use of the groundwater basin; groundwater basin users must ensure sustainable use of the groundwater basin.

i. Drop Structure May Impede Natural Flow of Water. A proposed element of the Project is the construction of a drop structure at the east end of the project. This large structure will block the natural flow of both surface and ground waters and create a bifurcation point where one did not exist previously. This is concerning for a few reasons:

a. The effects of surface water flow will need to be analyzed.

b. Possible effects, including lowering of the groundwater table, will need to be analyzed. Nearby well users, would need to expend additional money to access the modified water table elevation. Other possible effects may be: wells may run dry and need to be drilled deeper, vegetation growth patterns may change, ect.

i. Water Quality Concerns. The reduction in soil surface, as described above, will induce several effects on the aquifer which are counter to its sustainable use. In addition, the Developer needs to provide an evaluation of current groundwater quality conditions but does not provide an assessment of potential impacts to groundwater quality based on operations of the proposed project.

a. Accumulation of debris within the reclaimed pit may degrade ponded water quality. Upon infiltration, aquifer water quality will decline. Further, no analysis has done to compare pre- and post-mine operation infiltration rates.

b. Water quality may also become compromised when exposed minerals and elements (e.g. uranium, asbestos, salts, ect.) are washed down during dust control operations and infiltrate the ground.

c. Hazardous Material Storage. The Developer needs to address description of handling and storage of hazardous materials is curt. The Developer needs to address the DWR restrictions regarding hazardous material storage near wells. The Developer needs to elaborate on plans to protect groundwater.

The Developer needs to study, in particular:

- i. Reconstruction of the water budget per comment above and development of a groundwater model of the entire basin.
- ii. The Developer is to develop a comprehensive site-specific study regarding the impact of mining operations on nearby bodies of water. It is important to understand possible adverse effects created by mining operations and the impact these may have on the natural flow of surface and ground waters in the Sweet Water River Valley groundwater basin.
- iii. Perform additional aquifer testing that provides actual aquifer properties and connections between wells in the alluvium and as assessment of the hydraulic conductivity with the underlying bedrock.

CONCLUSION

Based on the issues described in this letter, the Developer's presentation does not meet the obligations of CEQA and that the Project would result in significant and unmitigated to several sensitive biological resources. The application for the MUP must disclose, adequately analyze, and mitigate the significant impacts identified in this letter. If the impacts cannot be reduced to less than significant then the application should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel S. Weber
Impacted Resident
dansweber@aol.com

From: John Weekley
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine EIR
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:55:07 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

I hope that the County Planning and Development Services will be held responsible for what may happen, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,
John M Weekley
Rhonda M Weekley

From: Paul Weekley
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Re: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine OPPOSED. Please Help Stop this.
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 1:09:34 PM

Dear Mr Hingtgen,

I am writing you in strong opposition of the proposed sand mining operation at Cottonwood Golf Course in San Diego. I appreciate that you and your colleagues attended the meeting that was held at Hillsdale Middle School so that you could hear first hand how this would destroy our community.

Our family, which includes children and animals, live within 300 feet of the proposed operation. We cycle and run as do many groups and local high schools, on Willow Glen and the surrounding streets. This operation will change our open air and nature preserve community irrevocably. I work from home and am concerned about the constant noise and traffic. I am worried about our health.

Unless the County is being bought, I don't see how the EIR could not reflect the dangers and detriments to the community. This operation would change our lives in Rancho San Diego and would change the purpose of the land.

Please be sure to include all of the facts. All of the species in the area are in danger!

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Paul Weekley
paul.weekley@gmail.com

From: Tracy Weekley
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Re: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine OPPOSED!!
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 7:28:27 AM

Dear Mr Hingtgen

I am writing you in strong opposition of the proposed sand mining operation at Cottonwood Golf Course in San Diego. I appreciate that you and your colleagues attended the meeting that was held at Hillsdale Middle School so that you could hear first hand how this would destroy our community.

Our family, which includes children and animals, live within 300 feet of the proposed operation. My husband cycles as do many groups on Willow Glen and the surrounding streets. This operation will change our open air and nature preserve community irrevocably. I work from home and am concerned about the constant noise and traffic. I am worried about our health.

Unless the County is being bought, I don't see how the EIR could not reflect the dangers and detriments to the community. This operation would change our lives in Rancho San Diego and would change the purpose of the land.

Please be sure to include all of the facts. All of the species in the area are in danger!

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely
Tracy Weekley

Sent from my iPhone

From: Randall Wheeler
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)
Subject: Proposed Sand Mine at Cottonwood Golf Course
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019 9:28:45 PM

Date: November 17, 2019

From: Randall & Sally Wheeler Email:
rwheeler6@cox.net

12210 via Hacienda
El Cajon, CA 92019

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
(Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

San Diego County Planning and Development
Services

**Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for
Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy

equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the

owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Randall & Sally Wheeler



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2962 • Fax (858) 694-2555
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds

KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

As a 35 year resident in the Cottonwood area of Rancho San Diego I am very concerned about the sand mine project. The air quality and traffic conditions will be greatly impacted for the worse. As a senior citizen I do not wish to be exposed to foul air and have to fight traffic to get home. I feel for the children at nearby schools who will breathe dirty air everyday. Please consider this project carefully.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Margaret Wilder 11-14-19
Commenter Signature, Date

Margaret Wilder
Print Name

2714 Wind River Road
Address

El Cajon, CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code

**STATEMENT IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO
COTTONWOOD SAND MINE PROJECT
November 22, 2019**

The Cottonwood Sand Mine Project is a 280 acre recipe for disaster. In today's economy, a golf course going bankrupt is not a valid reason to disrupt an entire established residential community. According to the SANDAG "San Diego Region Aggregate Supply Study" dated January 2011, the need for sand should NOT mean that sand mining should be done in the middle of an established residential community. The San Diego County General Plan, the Valley de Oro Master Plan and the Rancho San Diego Specific Plan designate Willow Glen Drive a Scenic Highway. The property is zoned for recreational use, NOT industrial use. It is supposed to be a buffer area to protect sensitive habitat areas. This is an inappropriate and unacceptable location for a sand mine any way one looks at it.

There are already two gravel pits operating in this area within two miles of the site.

The traffic here is unbelievable. With two casinos, there is a great deal of car traffic plus casino buses and their supply trucks. The opening of the Sycuan twelve story, 300 guest room, 57 suite hotel and gas station has increased traffic significantly. The large number of double load sand and gravel transport trucks from the Hester Gravel Co. aka JCI Inc. aka Robertson's #96 sometimes has three or four trucks traveling in a row on Willow Glen Dr. and Jamacha Rd. With the addition of a minimum of 176 more gravel and sand trucks traveling on this road round trip per day, people living on Willow Glen Dr. will need a stop light to get out of their driveways.

Willow Glen Dr. is one of the most dangerous roads in San Diego County. There are multiple accidents including fatalities every year. There is no space for deceleration and acceleration lanes for the sand mine. The trucks will be entering and exiting the sand mine too close to both Jamacha Rd. and the Steele Canyon bridge. Therefore, the bottlenecks created will be terrible along with the accidents. Willow Glen Dr. is a major route for emergency vehicles. Usually, if there is a traffic accident or another emergency, there are multiple law enforcement vehicles, at least one

ambulance and a fire truck going to the scene. Frequently, drivers do not pull to the right and stop, especially the gravel trucks. This is bad for both the emergency crews and the victims.

The surface of Willow Glen Dr. is already in deplorable condition due to the number of gravel trucks traveling on it. Considering, that each gravel truck carries 25 tons of sand or gravel each trip this explains the condition of the roads. When the trucks are empty, the drivers race down the road to get back to the plant. It has been years since Willow Glen Dr. was actually entirely resurfaced. It is impossible to avoid the potholes when driving.

The Associated Press has identified Jamul as one of the three worst areas of San Diego County for fleeing a wildfire, due to too few evacuation routes for the population of the area. If the Enclave at Ivanhoe is built, this will add an additional 119 homes to the area. No one seems to be thinking about the tragedy a wildfire evacuation would be. This area is the main doorway to and from Jamul, Dulzura and Potrero. All are major horse ranching communities. In addition to cars, trucks and motor homes evacuating from these areas there would be pickup trucks pulling horse trailers of various sizes loaded with horses that are valuable both in terms of money and sentiment.

The danger to school children both at Jamacha Elementary and Steele Canyon High School, who walk, bicycle, drive or take a school bus to school, will be heightened. There is gridlock now on Jamul Dr., Steele Canyon Rd. and Willow Glen Dr. on weekdays. Not starting the trucks until 9:00 AM does not fix this problem as the traffic is equally as bad between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM.

The noise pollution would be horrible. Even “muted” backup bells are a total annoyance. A 2,000 foot long conveyor belt is not something that will beautify the environment. Also, there is an echo that occurs here due to it being a valley.

Noise, air and water pollution will be rampant. Even the use of a conveyor belt to transport the sand and gravel from the excavation site to the processing plant will not improve this. There will be dust both from

excavating and transferring the aggregate from the loader bucket to the conveyor belt and the conveyor belt to the processing machinery. There will be noise generated by the processing of the sand. Santa Ana winds will distribute the dust over a larger area.

The Greenhouse Gas produced by this project plus the destroying of the already established trees and vegetation on the property is incompatible with the Greenhouse Gas goals of the county.

Every area of San Diego County has places where PCC grade sand can be mined. Most of these areas are not places that are developed with an established community. There is no shortage of it in this county. If there is an overabundance of it being mined, it will be exported to other states thus negating the excuse that it is for local use.

Though it is a drought now, for this company to be messing with the course of the Sweetwater River is playing with dynamite. Those of us who lived here in 1980, know that government allowing two sand mines upstream to mess with the riverbed for their own profit was sure disaster for the rest of the community. My family had only lived here five months. We almost lost our house. We did lose three quarters of an acre of land. Our American dream was terribly close to being lost. This should not happen to anyone.

Proposition 65 identifies sand mining as a cancer causing business. Valley Fever can infect any mammal domestic or wild. There are multiple horse ranches in the area with valuable horses. Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) is another health risk. Diesel fuel is a health hazard whether it comes from trucks or heavy equipment. Because this is a narrow valley, the fumes stay in the air longer.

There are known areas where Native American artifacts can be found on this property. I know someone who watched some of them being removed when the golf course was illegally sand mining under the guise of improving the fairways. He says the artifacts were intact not broken pieces. They were museum quality and were illegally sold by the golf course owner and the excavator. He is willing to come forward and testify to this and point out the places where the artifacts were found. This area would have been a natural

place for the Kumeyaay people to camp due to the availability of water and game.

Some of the endangered species that would be affected are the California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, Arroyo Toads and Quino Checkerspot Butterflies to name a few. The National Wildlife Refuge is adjacent to this property. The site is within the South County and Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segments of the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program preserve. There are also, animals and birds that are not endangered, including bobcats, coyotes and wild turkeys. People choose to live here to observe the natural wonders of this beautiful valley.

Wise men tell us that the reason to study history is to keep history from repeating itself. No quarries or sand mines in East County have ever done any reclamation. Each company promises to be the first to do so. We don't want to trade what we have for an empty promise that everything will be fixed in twelve years. The developers only want to "work with the community" until they get their way. We want to keep what we have right now.

Property values will tank. Selling will not be a viable option as no buyer will want to purchase the property when they see, hear and smell the sand mine. This community is made up of hard working, middle class, taxpaying families that want to stay here for the rest of their lives. A sand mine on the other side of your retaining wall is not what people moved here to have.

Depressed property values will cost the County of San Diego as well. Property owners will request the county reassess their property for the lower property value. Over the expected twelve year time span of this project this will cost the county a fortune.

Since everything this project intends to do will ruinously effect the environment in this community, it is essential that the agencies identified in the County's Scoping Letter of May 31, 2019, in addition to any other affected agencies be included in the EIR notification process as well as the required approvals for the project.

Please recognize that this project is not a good deal for anyone except the owner of the property. The rest of us actually live, work and play here. This is our home. This project will harm everything in this community. We will not stand for this beautiful community being raped and destroyed by greed.

NOT THE RIGHT TIME! NOT THE RIGHT PLACE! NOT THE RIGHT PROJECT!

Sincerely,

Linda L. Wilks

From: Susan Kellstrom
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine Project
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 2:11:45 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

How are things? I just wanted to weigh in, along with my wife, and offer our objections to the Cottonwood Sand Mine project. I am new to the area and recently toured the Cottonwood Golf Course. It is readily apparent that the roads in the area are not adequate to address any type of fire emergency -- evacuation routes are few and small. I fear that residents of the area will face the fate that Paradise California residents faced -- namely dying because roads out of the area were jammed with too much traffic. The Cottonwood Sand Mine project would make this situation worse and entirely intolerable due to the added congestion created by constant sand hopper truck traffic to and from the area.

Please take this into consideration in your report? Your efforts in this matter are much appreciated. You can avoid a potential disaster.

Thank you,
John R. Wittenbel and Susan A. Kellstrom
2014 Darlington Court
El Cajon



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

IT IS UNCONSCIONABLE TO ALLOW AN OPEN-PIT SAND MINE IN THE MIDDLE OF DEVELOPED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS, RIGHT NEXT TO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. THE 7 MILLION TONS OF MATERIAL TO BE EXTRACTED WILL CAUSE A FILTHY EYESORE, HORRIBLE NOISE AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION, & THE POTENTIAL FOR SILICOSIS, WHICH IS UNCUREABLE, AND ALSO CAUSES CANCER. THIS WILL ALSO BE DEVASTATING TO OUR HOME VALUES AS WE TRY TO SELL OUR HOMES IN DESPERATION TO ESCAPE THE DEADLY POLLUTION TO OUR AIR & WATER AND THE NOISE. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THE COUNTY HOPES TO BENEFIT IN PERMIT & FEES REVENUE, BUT IT IS NOT WORTH IT AT ANY PRICE!

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Commenter Signature, Date

SANDRA WOOD

Print Name

2073 PINE GLEN CT.

Address

EL CAJON, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

From: carolineyalda@gmail.com
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 4:46:28 PM

Date: November 22, 2019
From: Caroline Yalda
(Carolineyalda@gmail.com)
2592 Sawgrass St.
El Cajon, CA 92019

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

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Sincerely,
Caroline Yalda

From: Christopher Yalda
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:08:22 PM

Date: 11/22/19
From: Christopher Yalda 2592 Sawgrass St El Cajon CA 92019
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

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Sincerely,

Christopher S. Yalda

From: Saher Yalda
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: End Cottonwood Golf Sand Mine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 2:05:20 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I was informed of the proposal for a sand mine in place of the Cottonwood Golf Course. I would like to express my concerns in regards to this proposal. If the sand mine was to get approved the traffic in this area will be out of control. The area already is very busy and it is hard to get in and out of willow glen drive. I could not imagine how bad the traffic would be with hundreds of trucks coming in and out of willow glen drive for sand mining. Although they say they will use a back road I know over time they will start to use Willow Glen Dr which will cause a hazard in this area if evacuations need to take place. I have lived in this area for only 13 years and I have had to evacuated 3 times to do wild fires. Evacuations occur more often then not and with the volume of traffic the mining will cause it is putting everyones life in danger. The residents will be stuck and not be able to easily leave the area. With the traffic the sand mine will cause it will be hard to evacuate this area due to the volume of traffic putting thousands of residents lives at risk.

The proposal for a sand mine in the middle of a community is not fesiabile and will tarnish the community. The sand mine will bring many health issues to residents and young children who attend school in this area. Not only will it cause health issues it will hurt the wildlife causing an imbalance of wildlife in the area, along with the noise they will make. This is not an area for a sand mine and the owner of the golf course should make a proposal for something reasonable the sand mine is NOT reasonable. I am sure he would not want a sand mine in the middle of his community... Please put this to a stop as it will cause a severe impact on thousands of lives in a negative manner!!!

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Saher

From: Saher Yalda
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:43:58 PM

Date: **11/22/19**
From: Saher Yalda 2592 Sawgrass St El Cajon CA 92019
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

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Sincerely,

From: antonio yaldo
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 12:35:15 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am the current resident of
3484 Heatherwood Dr.
El Cajon, CA 92019

We are expressing our concern regarding the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project. This project will propose a great deal of negative effects to the people of Rancho San Diego. The excavation of sand produces a byproduct of silica dust. Silica dust is a harmful carcinogen that is not safe for the human body to respire. In a country that is working to reform vape pens and other forms of smoking, that is killing United States citizens, this excavation is just another form of lung disease and cancers backed by and concealed by a San Diego county construction uniform. As San Diegans we spend a great deal of our time outside, so in our enjoyment of the wonderful San Diego weather, we will be exposed even further to this harmful carcinogen. A project that will last a short number of years can cause lifelong medical effects for families and wildlife near the mine.

Along with the medical effects, there are some indirect issues that will terrorize common life for members of the community. The use of large delivery trucks will cause an influx of traffic to the roads of Rancho San Diego. The traffic brought by the trucks will be a great inconvenience to all members of the community. The congestion of the streets of Rancho San Diego will only be worsened with the introduction of these trucks to our roads. Not only does it bring traffic but with traffic comes an increase of car accidents, which can often time prove fatal. If roughly 1.25 million Americans die each year due to car accidents, would we not want to decrease this number? The sand mine is a project that could only add to this number. Apart from traffic large trucks have been proven damaging to infrastructure. The trucks are a source of massive amounts of noise pollution to the surrounding areas. The massive amounts of noise will lead to lack of sleep and lack of rest, which, in turn could cause more and deeper health issues.

Lastly, the overall value of all houses in the general vicinity will be drastically diminished. The diminishing value of our homes will lead to a decrease in property tax collected by the county.

If any of these adverse effects are to be brought upon any of the citizens, then the county of San Diego will reap 100% of all the consequences, for their allowance of the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project, brought upon them by members of the community.

This being said the Yaldo family stands with the Rancho San Diego Community in opposition to the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project.

Thank you for your consideration of all concerns.

Sincerely,
Antonio Yaldo

From: Christopher Yaldo
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: STOP Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 1:45:04 PM

Hi Mr. Hingtgen,

I hope you are doing well. I wanted to bring an important matter to your attention and I was hoping I could gain your support.

Recently in my community (Rancho San Diego), the Cottonwood Golf Course owner submitted an application to convert the golf course into a sand mine. If this proposition gets approved, it would tarnish the Rancho San Diego/ Jamul community. The sand mine would take place over a course of ten years! The community would be affected in several ways. I would like to express these concerns on behalf of my community. Currently the Rancho San Diego/ Jamul community is a highly desired community for many families. The sand mine would damage this community. The sand mine will damage our air and water quality. It will also severely impact the wildlife in the community. Although property values will also decline, this is not my main concern. Money can always be recouped, however health and wildlife cannot be. I am very concerned about the safety and health issues the sand mine would cause in my community. I understand the need for sand and the continued demand for it, however sand should not be mined in the middle of a community that has been around for over 30 years. This is not the proper place for sand mining. Please check out [Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine](#) to learn more about how this will harm the entire community. The community has started a [petition](#) to put this to a stop.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions. Have a great day and I hope to hear from you very soon. Thank you very much for all your continued hard work in our community!

Best,

Christopher S. Yaldo
619-889-2635

From: Denelle Yaldo
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sand Mine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:06:13 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

The proposed open pit excavations to 35 feet or more will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and even horses. It is located adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The resulting noise disruption to the entire area will be felt immensely, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. It is unthinkable that these operations are planned to begin at 7:00 AM. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. While direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. Many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. How can this project avoid negatively impacting the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities? And where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer?

The property owner points to the proposed reclamation efforts as somehow offsetting the deleterious consequences of this open pit mine. But much of what will be done under the guise of "reclamation" would be necessary in any event to support the planned development of the property, which, after all, is the endgame for this property owner. I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business, that is, to get paid for what you would otherwise have to pay for yourself. But I would hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor stewardship of the environment and the physical well-being and safety of the community. I urge you to consider the serious concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution, the impact to Plants and Wildlife, and the inevitable Decrease to Property Values as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,
D.Yaldo

From: Pro-Air
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: NO ON SAND MINE
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 9:37:53 AM

I RENT A ROOM IN RANCHO SAN DIEGO. I AM A LICENSED CONTRACTOR AND TOTALLY UNDERSTAND BUSINESS AND THE NEED TO WORK. HOWEVER, THIS PROPOSED SAND MINE AT THE COTTONWOOD GOLF COURSE WILL BE DISASTROUS TO OUR COMMUNITY! PLEASE CONSIDER 2+ ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND THE RETIREMENT COMMUNITYS AS WELL.

THIS PROJECT WILL DESTROY OUR BEAUTIFUL OPEN SPACE, AND MAKE TRAFFIC UNBEARABLE!

I OPPOSE THE COTTONWOOD SAND MINE PROJECT.

THANK YOU

DAVID YOAK

11582 AVENIDA MARCELLA
EL CAJON CA

From: Sahira Yousif
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Re: Cottonwood Sand Mine Proposal
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 2:18:13 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I currently live in Rancho San Diego right by Cottonwood Golf Club. I have a severe asthma condition and I am very concerned about the possibility of a sand mine in my community. I have been a resident in this area for 50 years and this community is all I know. I am unable to relocate at the current age and condition I am in. If the sand mine was to get approved it will pollute the air and cause severe health issues for me. I cannot imagine the pollution and quality of air with the sand mining in the middle of a community with upper class homes. This proposal is very concerning to me and I hope you are able to sympathize with me the issues that it will cause me, my family. and the community as a whole.

The sand mining will also cause traffic issues on a road that is already very busy, not to mention causing our water to be polluted along with the air. Please consider the lives of thousands of residents and how they will be impacted due to this sand mine. I hope you can understand my health issues and how it will impact my community. Please hear our voices and put a stop to the sand mine. We want our community to stay the same!

Thank you,

Sahira

From: Sahira Yousif
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:10:41 PM

Date: 11/22/19
From: Sahira Yousif 1679 Emerald Point Ct El Cajon CA 92019
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. It makes no sense that a major, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents, an elementary school and already overcrowded and narrow roadways is even considered. If approved, the mine will be operating for at least 12 years and possibly longer. During that time an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock will be excavated, processed, loaded onto large, heavy trucks and exported to whatever site is willing to pay the most. And although the owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in the County, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

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Sincerely,

Sahira Yousif



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2962 • Fax (858) 694-2555
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds

KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I believe the negative impact to the entire community will be devastating. Traffic and traffic noise have already been affected due to the Samual Casino and expansion of the Sycuan destination. The sand mining adds considerable truck traffic, road destruction, noise, dust and general discomfort. Sand mining is not a clean, quiet operation. My wife and I, along with ALL of our neighbors vehemently oppose this proposal and though a few will be enriched, the quality of life for so many more will be immensely lessened.

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Paul A. Zetts 11/22/19

Commenter Signature, Date

Paul A. Zetts

Print Name

13 ~~2490~~ 2490 Sawgrass St

Address

El Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code