

reasons, this is simply an inappropriate location for a Sand Mine.

Sensitive populations such as:

- Schools
- Residence Care Facilities
- Facilities & residences that house individuals w/ health conditions (children + elderly) and
- Senior living facilities

will be impacted by this decision,

From: Tiffany Maple
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Say no the Cottonwood Sandmine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 9:31:52 AM

Good Morning Robert,

As a native San Diegan and East county born and rasied, I'm very concerned about this Sand mine and others coming to our neighborhoods. The spores and silica contamination comes to mind. The traffic and noise pollution is another concern. The contamination of ground water is terrible. If these guys want to mine sand let them do it out of towns out elsewhere.

As you must know the lakeside planning group, which I am on, unanimously voted No on the EIR for El Monte. I'm confident the same will happen wit the Cottonwood sand mine. Let that be clear message that the people have spoken!

I appreciate your time as I'm sure many people are reaching out. Please take us seriously and not the business men who would put their profit over the community.

Thank you,
Tiffany Maple

November 12, 2019

Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mine proposal

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

My family and I strongly object to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. We don't understand how an industrial, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of family residents, an elementary school, a teen rehab facility, and already overcrowded and narrow roadways can even be considered for our rural community, adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge.

The proposal states a 12-year time frame, an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock, 88 truck round trips per day, doesn't fit well in a residential area. Our home is a block away from the Cottonwood Golf Course and the water shed that flows yearly along the riverbed is one that our community relies on. The open space is home to animals we see daily, Cranes, egrets, coyotes and rabbits. All this space would be lost to them. They use it as a passage way from one side of the valley to the other.

The proposal will hurt our community in so many ways:

An open pit excavation down to as much as 40 feet will have a severe and negative impact on the quality of our air, noise, water, traffic, and the look and country feel of our community.

Heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community.

Probable severe damage to endangered species, due to their habitat destruction.

Probable groundwater impact; direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment, disruption of existing flow patterns, unknown effect to resident wells, impacts to the Sweetwater Riverbed, and Sweet water reservoir.

Traffic and accidents are a very big concern. We already have a lot of traffic on our two-lane road and to add the large trucks with our regular daily traffic to and from school, work and all the casino traffic this will impact us all.

Our property values will drop as well. Who wants to buy a house next to a sand pit? Would you?

I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business. Unfortunately, this business is very bad for our community. 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,

Heidi and Christopher Martin

3344 Indian Mills Lane

Jamul, Ca 91935

From: Thomas Martinez
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sand Mines at Cottonwood
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:15:16 PM

I am sending this to you to express my opposition to the Sand Mine project for the Cottonwood area.

I have been a resident of Rancho San Diego for 27 years and I feel the quality of life will be severely affected by this project.

The air quality will be diminished mightily by the silica released into the air triggering respiratory problems for elderly and children attending Jamacha Elementary School , Rancho San Diego Elementary and Hillsdale Middle School.

Extracting a valuable Mineral like sand out of the earth will make the remaining soil very undesirable for vegetation and future development.

This will spoil the beautiful pastoral community we live in by creating air and noise pollution from trucks continually hauling loads of dirt and debris away.

The Martinez Family strongly implores you to vote NO on this project.



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2882 • Fax (858) 694-2555
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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

COTTEN

I OPPOSE THE SAND MINE.
HEALTH REASONS, DIRT NOISE.

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

 11/21/2019
Commenter Signature, Date

FRED MASHHOUR

Print Name

5170 TERRAZA QUINTANA

Address

SAN DIEGO, CA 92124

City, State, Zip Code

Date: November 11, 2019

From: Carol Mastny

3263 Cottonwood Springs Lane

Jamul, CA 91935

cmastny@cox.net

To: Mr. Robert Hingtgen, Planner III

San Diego County Planning and Development Services

RE: Cottonwood Sand Mine

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing this letter to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine on the Cottonwood Golf Course in Rancho San Diego/Jamul. This is a residential area with houses, schools, a health care facility, and businesses. Many are within 100 yards of the proposed sand mine.

The following impacts are of great concern to me and the community.

1. WATER POLLUTION/EROSION

According to Eric del Bosque, (engineering manager with the Sweetwater Authority) last February 15 Loveland Reservoir released 300 cubic feet of water per second for a total of 12 days. This water flows directly through the Cottonwood Golf Course and empties into the Sweetwater Reservoir which supplies the water needs of Chula Vista, National City, and Bonita. As a resident who crosses over the Cottonwood Golf Course daily using the Steele Canyon Bridge, I was able to witness the erosion this tremendous quantity of water does. 2019 was a dry year. Water was only let out once. In rainy years water can be released and flow for weeks at a time for the entire season.

2. AIR POLLUTION:

Currently San Diego City and County are passing rules to limit the amount of pollutants in the air because San Diego City and county have the 6th highest air pollution rate in the nation. Why would you want to approve a sand mine that will add more pollution to the air in the form of exhaust fumes from the trucks and silica particles from the extraction of the sand? Just breathing a very small amount of crystalline silica particles on a daily basis causes silicosis, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and kidney disease. Jamacha Elementary School, Adeona adolescent health care facility, Steele Canyon County Park, and La Vida Real senior citizen living community are located very near the proposed mine.

Where will the air quality monitoring machines be placed? Who will be in charge of monitoring them?

3. NOISE POLLUTION:

Many residences and business will be located within 100 feet of the constant noise. The Sand mine could not possibly follow the required state guidelines for noise pollution to be 1,300 feet from residences.

This land would better be used for new housing, recreation/wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,



Date: November 10, 2019

From: Dale C. Mastny
3263 Cottonwood Springs Lane
Jamul, CA 91935
dmastny@gmail.com

To: Mr. Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine on the Cottonwood Golf Course in Rancho San Diego/Jamul. This is a residual area with houses and businesses surrounding this proposed mining operation.

Although most jurisdictions have legal limits on the location and volume of sand that can be extracted, illegal sand mining has taken place at this site in the past. Such activities have a negative effect on the surrounding ecosystem. Here are some adverse impacts of sand mining:

1. Sand Mining Causes Erosion:

By removing material from this area, sand mining also leads to the erosion and disruption of the topology of the land. All of these destructive effects of sand mining ultimately lead to the loss of fertile land and property.

2. Sand Mining in Flood Channels Harms Local Wildlife:

When sand is mined, it disturbs the wildlife living in the area ecosystem. When sand mining occurs in nesting habitats, it leads to the loss of nesting sites. Therefore, sand mining can be a factor responsible for the disappearance of a species.

3. Sand Mining Destroys Aquatic Ecosystems:

The ill effects of sand mining on wildlife are not confined to flood channels and sandbanks, but also include underwater ecosystems.

4. Sand Mining Makes Areas More Prone to Flooding:

The flood channel acts as barriers to flooding. When sand mining removes such barriers, areas become more prone to flooding. As a result, communities in areas subjected to indiscriminate sand mining are thus more vulnerable to the forces of nature. Sand mining destroys the aesthetic beauty of our neighborhood and also makes the ecological system in these areas unstable.

Noise Setbacks:

According to the COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE AND REPORT FORMAT AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS MINERAL RESOURCE; setback distances may vary from project to project, a

general noise setback area of approximately **1,300 feet** is usually an adequate distance for most typical potential extractive operations to achieve allowable noise levels (in compliance with the County Noise Ordinance). For example, 1,300 feet would usually attenuate typical heavy equipment noise levels of 75 to 90 dBA to the County Noise Ordinance standard of 50 dBA for daytime residential land use. Residential homes are located less than 100 feet from the proposed boundary of this sand mining site.

Sweetwater River:

Sector N Alluvial deposits of the Sweetwater River located near the community of Sunnyside. About 150 acres.

Sector O Alluvial deposits of the Sweetwater River located at the upper end Sweetwater Reservoir. About 183 acres.

Sector P Alluvial deposits of the Sweetwater River located in upper Jamacha Valley. About 343 Guidelines for Determining Significance 11 Mineral Resources acres.

Sector Q Alluvial deposits of the Sweetwater River extending from near the Singing Hills Golf Course upstream about 4 miles. About 400 acres.

Note: The Cottonwood Golf Course is not included in the area or any other area listed by the above guidelines.

Health Issues: (This is my main concern)

Millions of U.S. workers are exposed to respirable crystalline silica in a variety of industries and occupations, including construction, sandblasting, and **mining**. Silicosis, an irreversible but preventable disease, is the illness most closely associated with occupational exposure to the material, which also is known as silica dust. Occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica are associated with the development of silicosis, lung cancer, pulmonary tuberculosis, and airways diseases. These exposures may also be related to the development of autoimmune disorders, chronic renal disease, and other adverse health effects. In our area the wind usually blows from west to east in the valley. Therefore, everyone in this area will be exposed to an increase level of silica particles in the air if the proposed sand mining project is approved. Not only will the residents in this area be exposed but also the students and staff at Jamul Elementary School and Adeona Health Adolescent Treatment Center.

Mining puts ground water at risk.

These chemicals can infiltrate into groundwater after washing. Long term exposure to common flocculants like polyacrylamides and acrylamides in high concentrations of drinking water can lead to nervous system, blood problems or increased risk of cancer. During the rainy season and when water is let out of Loveland Reservoir it runs through the Cottonwood Golf course and flows to the Sweetwater Reservoir which supplies drinking water for the South Bay area. If mining occurs in this area it will add high levels of pollutants to this water.

Abstract:

The California Construction and Industrial Minerals Association and the National Stone, Sand, & Gravel Association have sponsored tests at three sand and gravel plants in California to compile crystalline silica emission factors for particulate matter (PM) of aerodynamic diameter of 4 µm or less (PM₄) and ambient concentration data. This information is needed by industrial facilities to evaluate compliance with the Chronic Reference Exposure Level (REL) for ambient crystalline silica adopted in 2005 by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The REL applies to PM₄ respirable PM. Air Control Techniques, P.C. sampled for PM₄ crystalline silica using a conventional sampler for PM of aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 µm or less (PM_{2.5}), which met the requirements of 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 50, Appendix L. The sample

flow rate was adjusted to modify the 50% cut size to 4 μm instead of 2.5 μm . The filter was also changed to allow for crystalline silica analyses using National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Method 7500. The particle size-capture efficiency curve for the modified Appendix L instrument closely matched the performance curve of NIOSH Method 0600 for $\text{PM}_{4.75}$ crystalline silica and provided a minimum detection limit well below the levels attainable with NIOSH Method 0600. The results of the tests indicate that $\text{PM}_{4.75}$ crystalline silica emissions range from 0.000006 to 0.000110 lb/t for screening operations, tertiary crushers, and conveyor transfer points. The $\text{PM}_{4.75}$ crystalline silica emission factors were proportional to the crystalline silica content of the material handled in the process equipment. Measured ambient concentrations ranged from 0 (below detectable limit) to 2.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. All values measured above 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ were at locations upwind of the facilities being tested. The ambient $\text{PM}_{4.75}$ crystalline silica concentrations measured during this study were below the California REL of 3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The measured ambient concentrations in the $\text{PM}_{4.75}$ size range are consistent with previously published ambient crystalline silica data applicable to the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} of aerodynamic diameter of 10 μm or less (PM_{10}) size ranges. If sand mining occurs, who is going to monitor these levels to make sure the company doing the mining is not exceeding these levels? Where will the county be placing the monitoring equipment around this proposed site?

Sincerely,

Dale Mastny

From: Marsha
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sand mining in Cottonwood Golf Course
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019 5:35:14 PM

I am very opposed to sanding mining being done at the Cottonwood Golf Course in Rancho San Diego.

1. It does not belong in an area surrounded by homes at all.
2. It is a health hazard with the silica which can be carried by wind and truck movements to surrounding homes and condos. We are putting all those within a few mile radius in jeopardy to lung disease. To children and older residents and even those visiting, it is a liability risk the county can't afford to take.
Silica can travel quite a distance and is very hazardous to lungs. Even businesses will be affected by this risk factor.
3. It has potential to also to a health hazard to ground water. This is an area with many on wells which could be affected by the mining. Again, this is a risk for health of people in the area and a liability risk for the county.
4. The traffic on the two lane road is predominately for residents. To have 70 trips with trucks throughout the day is a danger to children, car traffic as well as creating terrible traffic and noise factors. The county would also be responsible for road maintenance, which with all those trips with heavy sand-laden trucks, is an expense for the county during and afterward
5. Mining of this magnitude belong far away from inhabited areas. In other states where mining occurs, it is far from suburbs and areas where people are. This is right up against homes, condos and small ranches.

I live about 4 miles away from the proposed sand mine. I will not be as directly affected, EXCEPT by trucks that may have to drive on highway 94, which is already a mess at rush hours. And the road from the mining site to 94, Jamaica, goes a few miles through a heavy shopping area past a college before it reaches another shopping area where the street turns into highway 94. This whole area now carries a great deal of traffic at all hours of the day. A new retirement home with many new residents will be put next to Skyline Church, which is a huge facility itself. And all this before the freeway. The impact to these two traffic areas and highway 94 will be incredible. I have to get out of my house at Bancroft Drive and many days I can't get out onto the freeway with the current traffic. Add large sand trucks, and we are in a horrible mess.

But far and away I am concerned about the health hazards to those surrounding the mining. This is a concern the county should look at carefully because if there are health issues arising from this mining, the county could be held liable as would the company. It is just too close to inhabited areas. I am surprised the county would even consider such a heavy risk business in an area with people living so nearby....on the street that services the mining operation!

Marsha McDonald
9464 Showplace Drive
La Mesa, CA 91941

619-460-3255k

From: Lori McMillan
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sandmine
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 8:12:24 PM

As a community member and teacher in the community I am greatly concerned about your sand mine plans. The traffic, noise, and decreased property value of our home would really hurt my family financially and health wise. I don't think having a sand mine in our community it what is best for is, please reconsider your placement of your proposed sand mine. Thanks for your time!

Lori McMillan
Sent from my iPhone

From: Kathy Mellor
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Saturday, November 02, 2019 3:19:30 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 farreaching 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,
Kathy Mellor
Jamul Resident
13606 Jamul Dr

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From: Jennifer Mendoza <jennifermendozal@gmail.com>

Date: November 22, 2019 at 2:23:33 PM PST

To: info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.com

Subject: Re: Community Input Needed!

I have a council meeting that night or I would attend. I'm not an expert on all the environmental issues, but my concern is the traffic on the 94 and through Rancho San Diego. My granddaughter attends Steele Canyon and I pick her up each day. The traffic is already fairly congested and now you have people heading out to the casino as well.

It's just not good for the community and for the air quality. We need to protect our back country from these types of uses.

Jennifer Mendoza
Lemon Grove City Council

From: Natalie Taylor
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Environmental impact of Cottonwood Sand mining project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:38:50 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to share my strong opposition for the cottonwood sand mine project in Rancho San Diego.

My parents live on Par Four, and would be greatly impacted by this project for many reasons. This area already is very busy and congested, having many homes off of willow glen a busy street as well as right by school traffic. If there were also loads of big trucks going in and out of that area it would greatly impact traffic in an already congested area.

More importantly this sand mine project concerns me due to the environmental impact it will have in the area. I am very concerned about the pollution in the air and how that will affect us, since I spend a lot of time with my children at my parents house. My parents also have an organic garden and the last thing we need is more contamination in our air, water and food in this day and age.

This will also in the end absolutely decrease the value of the homes that are currently built on the golf course, which have been a beautiful homes in Rancho San Diego and a very desirable place to live for years. Now for the next 10-12 years, if this project starts, the residents of these homes will be impacted environmentally and financially if they choose not to stay through this.

I appreciate you taking time to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,
Natalie Merfalen

Sent from my iPhone

From: countrytravel@cox.net
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Oppose Cottonwood Sand Mining
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 3:12:31 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen;

I am writing to tell you why I oppose the Cottonwood Sand Mining.

We moved to Jamul in 1986 when it was still a "country town" with nice people that cared about their neighbors and were friendly. These days things have changed dramatically! Our traffic is horrendous! To leave or return to Jamul on Hwy 94 we have to go through 3 schools traffic tie-ups or go the other route down Steel Canyon Rd. That is just as bad, if not worse, with people coming and going to Jamacha Elementary school or going to and from Jamul from the Casino! We have at least 3 buses coming and going every hour or so, from the casino plus the school buses daily where there is a stop light that doesn't allow half of the people to make the light. There have also been numerous accidents at that intersection, with fatal injuries.

What we are mainly concerned about is evacuation in case of a fire! In 2007 we all had to evacuate because of fire and it was a joke! It took hours to get out of Jamul!

There are so many people living here or coming and going from Tecate that traffic is at a standstill half of the time. With trucks coming and going for a year for the sand mining on all these accessible roads would be terrible and not just an inconvenience but a danger to getting in and out of here.

The two lane roads in the area were never designed to accommodate all this traffic and large trucks from Mexico and as more people move here and come here daily from Mexico, it becomes worse. The casino traffic has also increased traffic dramatically! The additional truck traffic would make it even worse. As an example, now they are building a huge Feed store in Jamul and have had all the large end dumps and trailers coming and going for a few weeks. This has once more slowed all the traffic and as people get impatient and enraged, they drive even more reckless and we have had several accidents, including several fatal crashes, because of the increased traffic. This you can check with the Highway Patrol to verify.

Another great concern is my neighbors and friends that bought beautiful, luxury homes and paid a lot of money to have a golf course view and now they have nothing but dead trees and dirt to look at. It has changed the property values for them, it's very ugly, and it's a very sad situation. Noise and more dust and dirt and trucks and added traffic would completely devastate those residents and the entire community.

Please reconsider using this property in our small community for sand mining purposes. It was designed for a golf course and residential homes and should stay as that. Sand mining is not at all appropriate or welcome for this area.

Thank you for allowing us to voice our opinion and those of our neighbors.

Sincerely,
Robert and Sue Merritt

3272 Ma Lou Drive
Jamul, Ca. 91935

11-22-2019

I also wanted to say that there is sand mining a few miles east of Cottonwood, on Dehesa Rd., and it was shut down. That would be a much better place to open the project again because there are no homes around to impact them or the traffic. Maybe you can look into that?

Thank you, Sue Merritt

From: Jim Meyer
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: [Jacob, Dianne](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 11:51:10 AM
Importance: Low

Mr. Hingtgen, we are writing to you to express our concern for the project reference above. **We oppose this project.**

I have been a resident of El Cajon since 1970, and have lived in the immediate area of the proposed sand mine for over 40 years. Having watched the area grow into what Rancho San Diego is today is both amazing and sad. I remember when the community of *Cottonwood* was a brushy, beautiful hillside, and when Rancho San Diego Shopping Center (Ralphs, Rite Aid) was a working horse ranch. Jamacha Road (St. Hwy 54) was a peaceful two lane road. Through the years, this has all turned into a wonderful, well planned place to live.

A couple of sites that existed before my time here still exist today, the Jamacha and Hester's Quarries. These sites have continued their operations and the area has grown around them. They were here first, Senior Rights! However, these sites don't go unnoticed. The noise of the machinery, sounds of dynamite blasting, the endless traffic of heavily loaded trucks, and the street sweepers daily paths are constant reminders of their presence. But, they were here first.

This is not the case for the proposed sand mine. It is smack in the middle of the developed community!

This plant would impact the ***air and noise quality*** of all residents. The existing traffic along Willow Glen and the surrounding streets, already heavily used and a hazardous condition with trucks from Hester's Quarry, will ***become even more dangerous***. Dust in the air could ***cause illness***. The Sweetwater River, which runs through the site, is a water way for the transmission of water from Lake Loveland in Alpine to Sweetwater Lake in Bonita. It is hard to believe that this transfer of water, which is done at least annually, can be done without ***contamination from this project***. This water is used for domestic purposes. Surely the Sweetwater Water Authority has major concerns.

We feel that this project would have a negative effect on the community.

We ask that the **County of San Diego** not approve this proposed project. ***We were here first, Senior Rights!***

Jim and Michelle Meyer
2182 Monarch Ridge Circle
El Cajon, Ca. 92019

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Tonya Meyer
1661 Vallea Street
El Cajon, CA 92019

To: Robert Hingtgen

I am writing this letter to you because I am extremely opposed to the Cottonwood Sand Mine. I grew up on Willow Dr. and my parents still live there. When I was younger we had to deal with the old Taylor pit behind us, in front of our house Hesters's granite pit, and Sloan Canyon . I grew up with a lot of dust, loud noises from the tractors, blasting that would cause more dust and rocks to land in our yard, and a ton of traffic from the trucks. As a child riding our horses and riding bikes on Willow Glen became more dangerous. With Sycuan Casino expanding more people drive Willow Glen. It takes us 3 to 5 minutes to leave my parents driveway at any given time. I can't imagine how much longer we will have to wait if this gets approved. I'm very concerned with the impact the sand mine will have with the people living in this area, the school children in this area, the known bicyclists, the untouched land in this area, the increased noise, and the even more increased traffic. When I attended one of the original meetings the developer had no concern about the people in this area only about making his wallet bigger. He had "his" guys do all the testing. What about the unknown pathogens (like Valley Fever) that can be dug up and in the air from this mine? There is a school extremely close to where this mine is supposed to be that my niece attends. What about all the trees that will be cut down and the natural uninhabited area that will be destroyed? My parents and many others have wells on their property. This sand mine will be allowed to dig in the water table. I am concerned about cancer causing agents and other pathogens being released into the well water. I am an avid bicycle rider. I no longer will ride on Willow Glen Dr because of how dangerous it is. My mother and I were almost hit. Also with the new Jamul casino traffic on Willow Glen and Steele Canyon will be unbearable if this project is approved. I truly hope that you take the time to check out these concerns and leave the land as is or make it an open walking/ biking area. The only people who are going to benefit from this is the developer/ owner and the gravel pits close by.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tonya Meyer

From: G. Middlebrook
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: STOP Cottonwood Sand Mine!
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 12:36:16 PM

Hello Mr. Hingtgen,

STOP Cottonwood Sand Mine!

I commute to/from work 4-days a week through Lakeside and I see the negative impact that sand mining has on this community.

- Torn up roads
- Traffic congestion due to fully loaded sand trucks
- Dust, dirt, and gravel all over the surrounding roads
- The division of the community for and against the sand mines
- The degradation of adjacent private and public land
- Negative impact to wildlife, both plant and animal

I do not want the same thing to happen to Rancho San Diego and adjacent communities.

Twice a week, I walk the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to the fallow portion of the Cottonwood Golf Club.

A treasure to all that live nearby. Sand mining in this are will have a MAJOR NEGATIVE impact to this portion of land and the neighboring homes and communities.

STOP Cottonwood Sand Mine!

Thank you,
Geneva Middlebrook
1705 Penasco Rd.
El Cajon, CA 92019
cell: 619-933-5791

From: Yousif Mikha
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Subject: Cotton Wood Sand Mines
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 4:24:20 PM

Date: November 22, 2019
From: Yousif Mikha
2797 Pointe PKWY Spring Valley, Ca 91977
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, Yousif Mikha



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 oppose this project for several reasons. First, the amount of dust that will be in the area and that will be breathed in by the residents and pets presents a health issue. Second, this will impact traffic greatly as well as increase possible damage to car windshields from rocks or pebbles being dropped along the route. Third, the noise can be harmful to young children, elderly, and pets. Due to these concerns regarding health and property damage, I object to this project moving forward and urge the County to stop this development from beginning.

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

 11/20/19

Commenter Signature, Date

Hana Mikhail

Print Name

2670 Pine Glen Ct.

Address

El Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

From: Matthew Miller
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Fwd: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 10:07:01 AM

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,

Matthew Miller
1937 Vista Grande Rd
El Cajon CA 92019
matmil2462708@gmail.com

Date: (Fill in the Date) Nov 10, 2019
From: (Fill in Your Name & Email) Bruce Mills brucer47@cox.net
(Fill in Your Address) 2649 Pine Glen Ct. El Cajon, CA 92029
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,

Bruce A. Mills



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2982 • Fax (858) 694-2555
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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

As a neighborhood home owner I am being kind when I say this project will be devastating to my quality of live here in Rancho San Diego I will be living between 2 quarries each within less than 1 mile from my home. Would you want to live here? The noise, pollution and increased traffic will be harsh. I am an elder and worry about my health and the health of my husband of 50 years. Along with our health I am concerned about property values, water quality and the beautiful environment we live in.

IF this does pass the Board of Supervision please consider:

- limiting mining to the lakes course or north of Steele Cyn Rd. only.
- Adding a NO EXTENSION clause to the 3 year excavation + 2 years

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

Sara J. Mills Nov 10, 2019
Commenter Signature, Date

SARA J. MILLS

Print Name

2649 Pine Glen Ct.

Address

El Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

From: Mark Morrison (JA)
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sand Mine
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 3:00:57 PM

I agree with the movement to **PLEASE** stop the owner of Cottonwood Golf course from turning our community into a sand mine! This is a nature preserve and zoned for recreation. It will endanger our health and bring unnecessary traffic, noise and air pollution to our school.

Thanks,
Mark Morrison

--

Mark Morrison
Third Grade Teacher
Jamacha Elementary



"The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."

-Marcel Proust



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

THIS PROJECT IS NOT HEALTHY FOR THE LOCAL PEOPLE
AND NOT WANTED. KEEP OUR COUNTRY "COUNTRY" NOT
MORE HOUSES

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

Philip Moxley

Print Name

3382 RANCHO MIGUEL RD.

Address

JAMUL CA. 91935

City, State, Zip Code

From: Dan Mullen
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: "[Dan Mullen](#)"; "[Margaret Mullen](#)"
Subject: NOP OF EIR FOR COTTONWOOD SAND MINE PDS2018-MUP-18-0323 PDS2018-RP-001 ENV LOG NO. PDS2018-ER-18-19-007
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2019 1:28:28 PM
Importance: High

Robert,

I currently live at 3053 Palm Vista Court which is very close to Cottonwood Gold Course. Our development directly abuts this course. I am absolutely astonished that the County would even consider this industrial mining operation near existing residential zones, educational institutions, and public parks. To assist in insuring that the EIR completely considers all aspects of this industrial sand mine proposal, please consider the following items:

1. Traffic impacts to all parts of the valley both along Willow Glen as well as ALL other adjacent thoroughfares.
 - a. Note: Jamacha Elementary School ALREADY causes severe traffic disruptions during drop off and pick up times. The EIR should address this and include mitigations as appropriate. At the very least, NO mining activity of ANY kind should occur during peak drop off and pick up times.
 - b. The notice included a comment that trucking operations for material sales will occur between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm (to avoid peak traffic periods in the surrounding area). These particular times are NOT appropriate for the valley in any way. The EIR should research and coordinate with ALL schools in the area to examine when are the peak times (which change based on school schedules constantly). I believe that 3:30 is too late for Jamacha Elementary and will cause major negative traffic impacts.
2. Health Impacts to Residents and Students.
 - a. The industrial sand mine operation will by necessity disturb the existing land which in turn will kick up particulate matter which will negatively affect my health and the health of my neighbors. Moreover, poor air quality has a more detrimental affect on the lungs of children than adults. All affects to students at neighboring schools and parks should be examined in the EIR.
 - b. Since we live at the bottom of a valley, the microclimate ALREADY has periodic conditions which include very poor air quality when there is a localized weather inversion layer. Specifically, we are able to smell plumbing waste vents since the air does not disperse the fumes from plumbing vents.
 - c. Also, ANYTIME there are ANY fires or times when people use their fireplaces, we instantly smell the smoke. Basically, it is like living at the

bottom of an ash tray.

- d. These factors should definitely be considered when preparing the air quality impacts of the proposal.

3. Biological Impacts.

- a. The industrial sand mine operation will negatively impact the biome of the entire valley. Currently Cottonwood serves as a relatively natural landscape which provides sustainable habitats for several species.
- b. The proposal will by necessity create several large holes in the ground which in turn will fill up with water during rains and then serve as breeding grounds for various insects which will affect the immediate neighbors and all of the valley.
- c. The EIR biologic report should include both flora / fauna impacts as well as Entomological impacts.
- d. The EIR biologic report should examine ANY possible impacts to the open space preserve due West of the development (behind Target Shopping Center and along Jamacha Blvd.).

4. Economic Impacts.

- a. The industrial sand mine operation will negatively impact my property value which I greatly resent. I know ABSOLUTELY that this has ALREADY started to occur based on neighbors in the area who had extreme difficulty in selling their homes. I feel that this impact is immoral and disgusting.

5. Development Impacts.

- a. Ideally, Cottonwood golf course should be allowed to continue to be converted into natural open space. Effectively, this would be a continuation of the open space preserve at the rear of Target Shopping Center and along Jamacha Blvd.
- b. If a conversion into natural open space is not possible, then I am in favor of residential use assuming that the proposed development / project EIR adequately addresses ALL negative impacts to the valley.
- c. Note: it is my understanding that the owner of Ivanhoe Ranch is in the process of attempting to entitle their property for residential development. This project is directly adjacent to Cottonwood golf course and to my understanding is NOT able to proceed due to the lack of sufficient access to the property. Therefore, the EIR for Cottonwood should ASSUME that there will be some sort of agreement worked out between these two parcels in order to provide a secondary access point for Ivanhoe Ranch. All aspects of the report should acknowledge this eventuality and incorporate necessary mitigations accordingly.

In summary, I am against the proposed industrial sand mine operation since it is completely incompatible with the current adjacent residentially zoned properties.

Cordially,

Daniel J. Mullen
3053 Palm Vista Court
El Cajon, CA 92019
619 306-2704

Steven, Heather

From: Margaret Mullen <margaretmullen@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 7:59 AM
To: Steven, Heather
Subject: FW: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine "Adeona Healthcare Center" 2816 Steele Canyon Road, El Cajon 92019

From: Margaret Mullen <margaretmullen@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 7:54 AM
To: 'Hingtgen, Robert J' <Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine "Adeona Healthcare Center" 2816 Steele Canyon Road, El Cajon 92019

Hi Robert,

I am contacting you regarding the (NOP) Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mining Project.

I am a homeowner at 3053 Palm Vista Court, El Cajon, 92019. Our cross street is Ivanhoe Ranch Road.

In reading the proposed preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project there is no mention of the potential impact to the patients at Adeona Healthcare Center. The Healthcare Center is located at 2815 Steele Canyon Road, El Cajon, Ca 92019. The treatment center is licensed by the state of California department of Social Services.

The treatment center is residential inpatient facility for teens from 12-17 years-old. The facility is located in this serene atmosphere to help heal young people offering various treatments.

There are 5 cabins with 14 beds for 24/7 treatment.

In addition, I believe that the County of San Diego is owner of this property.

Please consider the impact this San Mining Project with have on this Healthcare Center as well as the students at Jamacha Elementary School.

Regards,
Margaret Mullen

From: Hingtgen, Robert J <Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Hingtgen, Robert J <Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine

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 858-694-5802 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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From: Margaret Mullen
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: [Steven, Heather](#)
Subject: RE: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine : COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HILTON HEAD PARK AND COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STEELE CANYON PARK
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2019 2:17:09 PM

Hi Robert,

I am contacting you regarding the (NOP) Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mining Project.

This is my second contact as I have two other Air Quality existing sensitive receptors within the immediate vicinity of this project.

These two County of San Diego Parks were not mentioned in the initial analysis of the project. As you know, young people are most at risk with high AQI values as they require twice as much oxygen as adults to function. Both parks serve a wide section of Rancho San Diego young kids and adults.

The two County of San Diego Parks are:

County of San Diego Parks and Recreation: **Hilton Head County Park**, 1605 Hilton Head Road, El Cajon, Ca 92019.

10-Acre Neighborhood Park: Aquatic playgrounds, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball and exercise stations.

County of San Diego Parks and Recreation: **Steele Canyon County Park**, 2925 Steele Canyon Rd., El Cajon, Ca 92019

8.3 acre park: multi-purpose sports fields, tennis, volleyball, playgrounds and picnic rotunda.

As a property owner and taxpayer I am charged a fixed assessment for CSA-26 Local Park \$36.00 per year and for CSA-26 Landscape Zone 1 \$35.02 a year.

Both parks are beautiful and offer East County Residents a place for fresh air. In fact, your County of San Diego Parks and Recreation website touts the "FRESH AIR" slogan for Hilton Head Park. I find this slogan very ironic.

Both of these parks are in a one mile vicinity to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mining Project.

Regards,
Margaret Mullen
3053 Palm Vista Court,
El Cajon, Ca 92019

From: Hingtgen, Robert J <Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Hingtgen, Robert J <Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine

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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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From: Margaret Mullen <margaretmullen@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 1:53 PM
To: 'Bronwyn.Brown@sdcountry.ca.gov' <Bronwyn.Brown@sdcountry.ca.gov>
Cc: 'diane.jacob@sdcountry.ca.gov' <diane.jacob@sdcountry.ca.gov>; 'margaretmullen@cox.net' <margaretmullen@cox.net>
Subject: Cottonwood Golf Owner, Cottonwood ES, LL Major Use Permit

Hi Bronwyn,

I am contacting you regarding the proposed Sand Mine Operation Major Use Permit for Cottonwood Golf Club owner, Cottonwood ES, LL.

I am a homeowner at 3053 Palm Vista Court, El Cajon Ca 92019, our cross streets are Jamul Drive and Ivanhoe Ranch Road.

We have attended several meetings regarding this proposed Major Use Permit.

I have some major concerns regarding the granting of the permit for this Sand Mine Operation.

The following are my concerns:

The Sweetwater Bridge is only two lanes and at certain times of the day the bridge is backed up for a few miles up Steele Canyon Road. How could it possibly handle additional commercial trucks loaded with sand?

There is already heavy traffic on Willow Glen and the Robert's Commercial Trucking to the rock quarry add significant traffic to Willow Glen. Sycuan will open their new hotel in 2019 and the traffic on Willow Glen will increase and the number of gaming buses will increase as well.

The air quality in our valley is already poor with the rock quarry and living in the bottom of a valley adds additional air pollution. A sand mining operation will affect a significant area of Rancho San Diego with over 100,000 residents. How can a commercial mining operation exist in the middle of a residential area? We are not living in Mexico or Texas? We have zoning restrictions and Major Use Permits to protect homeowners and the population from hazardous health dangers.

Fish and Game will be affected as well with a commercial sand operation in the middle of the Sweetwater River, which by the way, is the second largest river in San Diego County. There are ducks, rabbits, possums, raccoons, coyotes and countless birds that migrate through the Sweetwater River Valley and rely on the open space for their habitat. A big whole and canyon will result if the mining operation is granted a permit.

Please consider the noise and health impact that this Major Use Permit will have on the residents of Rancho San Diego. Granting of this permit will destroy the beauty of our valley and will only add to the already bad image that El Cajon projects.

Margaret Mullen

From: marknajarsd@aol.com
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)
Cc: marknajarsd@aol.com
Subject: 3009 Cottonwood View Drive, Sand Mine
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:42:00 PM

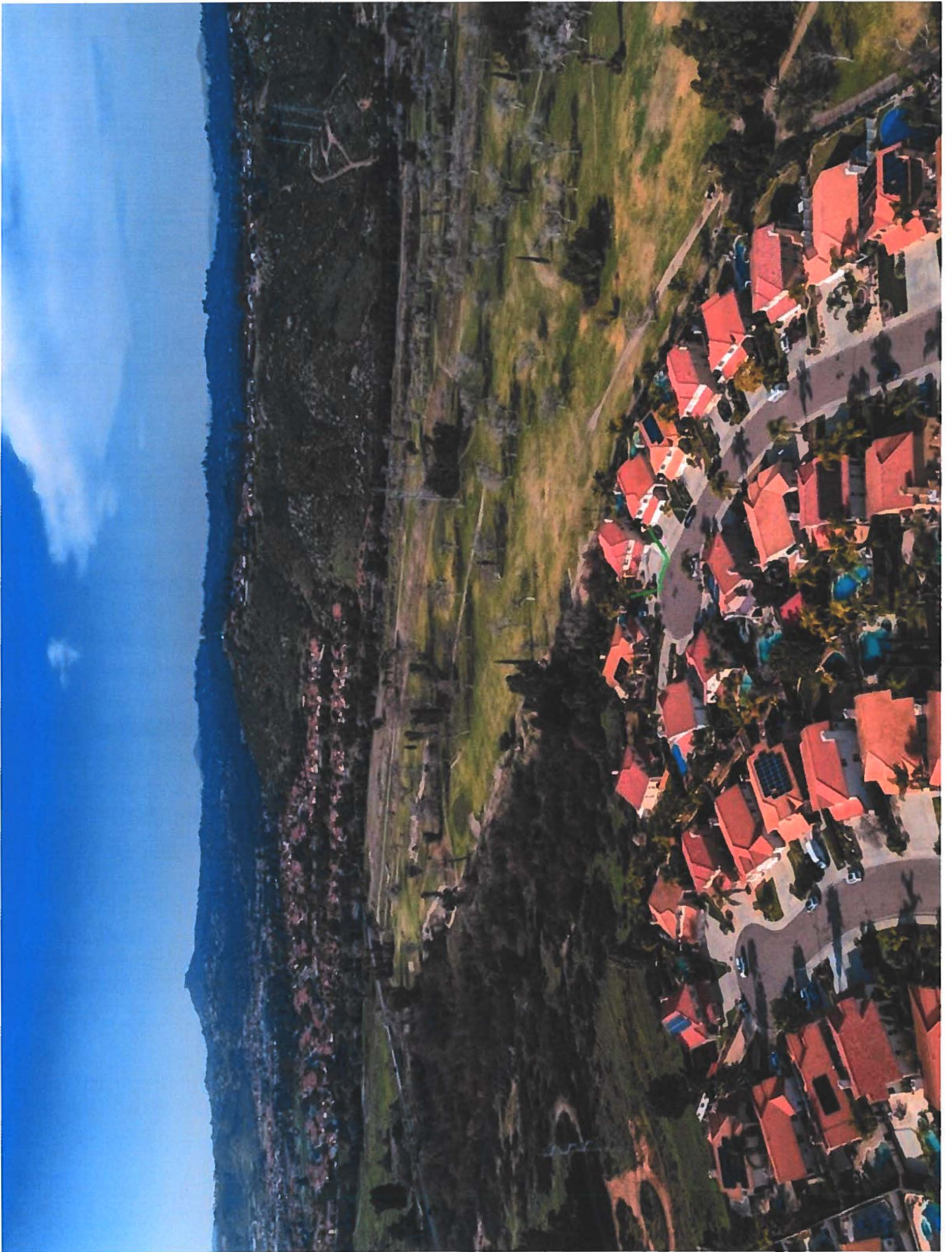
Hi Robert,

It was nice speaking with you last week, I own the house located at 3009 Cottonwood View Drive, I have attached some pictures for your review. As you can see in the attached photos having a sand mine directly behind my house would be devastating not only for the home owners on Cottonwood View Drive but to everyone within a 2 mile radius. I have 4 children under the age of 7 and 2 of my children attend Jamacha Elementary, if these sand mine proposal goes through my children would not be able to play in our backyard due to all the sand in the air and the load and annoying sounds of all the trucks and heavy equipment, I would also have to take my kids out of Jamacha Elementary because it would be safe for them to play outdoors during recess, I have talked to a number of parents the last month and all of them have told me that they will transfer to other schools if this proposal goes through.

We also have an issue with traffic going over the bridge on Steele Canyon Rd, traffic is always backed up at the light of cars trying to make a left on Willow Glen Drive and Willow Glen Drive is only a 2 lane road. This part of the County is developed with a number of residential homes and a sand mine just does not belong in our neighborhood, I have been told by a real estate agent that the property values could decrease by over 20% if this sand mine proposal goes through.

The property owner of this golf course lives in Beverly Hills and he doesn't care about San Diego County and the residence of this community, he just wants to cash in on this sand mine project and move on to the next project. A number of issues can come up if this proposal goes through, people can get sick, etc and then everyone is going to come after the County, this project could put the County liable for any issues that will come up due to the sand mine project, I don't believe that is something the tax payers want anything to do with. This sand mine project only benefits the greedy land owner looking to turn this beautiful community into a sand pit. Please stop the sand mine project this proposal should be shut down, thank you for taking the time to review this e-mail.

Mark Najjar
858-220-1830









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

I have lived in Rancho San Diego for 30 years. I bought my home here because of the beauty of the open spaces and the appeal of the planned community. Over the years we have seen the middle school, library, Ymca, and the Town Center built. Each one has brought benefits to the families who live here. The sand mine will bring nothing to the quality of life in RSD. In fact, it will dramatically change our daily lives for the worse. There are so many →

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

Joann Nelson 11-9-19
Commenter Signature, Date

Joann Nelson
Print Name

11674 Via Rancho San Diego
Address

El Cajon, CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code

reasons not to put a sand mining project in the heart of a community that does not want it. It would harm RSD in fundamental ways and affect every man, woman, & child.

Please stand up to big business and support our community.

Do not vote to destroy our small beautiful home.

From: Daniel Newland
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 7:11:36 AM

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,

Dan Newland
1945 Vista Grande Rd
El Cajon CA 92019
dnewland2045@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Frances Novotny
To: [Steven, Heather](#); [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: [Paul Zetts](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine Appeal/Objection
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 4:06:11 PM
Attachments: [11 22 19 Appeal to Cottonwood Sand Mine.pdf](#)
[11 22 19 FNZ Appeal Cottonwood Sand Mine.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Hingtgen and Ms Steven.

Please see the attached Appeals.

Please do not allow this proposal to go forward. This land is Zoned for Recreation. It is surrounded by homes and families. No one wants this except the man who plans to make millions at our expense.

Thanks so much!

Frances Novotny
CalDRE 01917210
Realtor Harcourts Sand and Sea Properties
Independent C.A.R. Certified Transaction Coordinator
frances4urhome@gmail.com
Cell-760-278-3170

Please reference the property address in your communications. If there is an attachment to this email, please confirm that you received it by reply.

It is a pleasure to be of service in an industry that I love. Your referrals are appreciated.

NOTICE: The information contained in this message is proprietary and/or confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are hereby notified to: (i) delete the message and all copies; (ii) do not disclose, distribute or use the message in any manner; and (iii) notify the sender immediately.



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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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

Dear Mr. Hingtgen - Ms. Steven

I have lived in this area since 1988. Over time I have watched as our neighborhood grew and expanded. My son attended Rancho Elem. - Halesdale Middle School - Valhalla HS. This has always been a safe, residential community. What has happened to our community in recent years is largely due to the Casino and the heavy traffic that it continues to generate - The proposal of the Cottonwood Sand Mine is completely inappropriate for this community - Trucks, noise, reduced air quality, streets unsafe for pedestrians, unsafe for children to walk to school. Our properties will de-value. Additionally,

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

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Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Frances Novotny Zetta

Commenter Signature, Date

Frances Novotny Zetta

Print Name

24090 Sawgrass St

Address

El Cajon Ct 92019

City, State, Zip Code

I understand there is a proposal for a Senior Community in the works at Skyline Church. I don't believe our streets have the capacity to handle this level of industrial activity. Not to mention a ~~block~~ tract of KB homes starting to be built off of Jamack Rd. I adamantly oppose the Cottonwood Canal Mine. It is completely out of sync with our community - the preservation ~~to~~ of our Protected Area - and the preservation of our peaceful streets. Please block this proposal.

From: Kathy Nutting
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood sand mine
Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 8:16:00 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I was greatly disturbed to learn recently of the plans to allow a sand mining operation to be placed in the middle of our nice community. Dust, noise, truck traffic, and degradation of air quality are just a few reasons to oppose this endeavor. I cannot understand how anybody would allow such a project in any community. It is not as if the sand mine was here first, and we moved in later. We moved here in good faith that we would not be living next to a mine. Count me in opposition to this horrible idea.

Kathy Nutting

11690 Via Bolsa

El Cajon, CA 92019

From: amal odesh
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine!!
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 1:53:09 PM

Hello Mr. Hingtgen,

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns regarding the Cottonwood Sand Mine. I have been a resident in Rancho San Diego for 30+ years, this community is the home to many families.

If the sand mine gets approved in this community it will harm the health of the children in schools in this area, tarnish our wildlife, and pollute our air. The community would be affected in a numerous amount of ways. This area is not a place for a sand mine and it is very ridiculous to even consider putting a sand mine in a community with thousands of homes and schools. Please stop this sand mine and do not approve it as it will severally impact my community and tarnish the community we worked so hard to build. The need for sand is not worth all the issues that will arise from the sand mine in this area! They should mine for sand elsewhere in an area that has no homes or schools or wildlife. This is not ok and this proposal should be rejected.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions. Thank you very much for all your continued hard work in our community!

Thank you,

Amal

From: amal odesh
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 3:52:01 PM

Date: 11/22/19

From: Amal Odesh 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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Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Amal Odesh



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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I have serious concerns about the proposal for a sand mine in my home community. Key concerns include:

→ AIRBORN Diseases/VIRUSES - Valley Fever (a costly disease that is very dangerous for pregnant women in particular); the effects of SILICA being disbursed widely + continuously; extensive dust in the air (ASTHMA etc).

→ Pollution: contamination of water supplies including groundwater, local wells, river + nearby reservoir

- Degradation of National wildlife refuge

- Traffic: exponential increase in heavy truck traffic w/sound, + family community feel disrupted. IT DEFILES OUR ESTABLISHED community of families, schools, children, the elderly + animals

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San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Gene L. Olson 11/9/19
Commenter Signature, Date

Eliane L. Olson 11/9/19
Print Name

12024 Calle de Lem #80
Address

El Cajon, CA 92019.
City, State, Zip Code

From: Pam & Don Paganini
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 1:30:25 PM

I would like to share my feelings about the proposed Sand Mining Project.

I am worried about the noise, the traffic (we already have tons of trucks traveling on Willow Glen Road) and the air quality. This is a highly populated area. Does anyone have any concern for people who are struggling with physical issues that would be compromised if this is allowed to happen?

We already have a gravel pit on Jamacha, just a mile or so away. It is extremely noisy and we get so much dirt coming our way. There is a lot of blasting and pounding and who knows what else they are doing that is unbelievably loud.

Other than profit for this company, I can see no reason for allowing this company to come into our neighborhood (which we have lived in since 1985).

Who is in charge here? Who is allowing this to happen? Who is standing up for this neighborhood?

Pam Paganini
1716 Sungrove Ct.
El Cajon, CA 92019



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

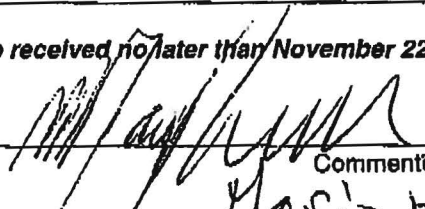
I'm opposed to the proposed cottonwood sand mine. Noise, Dust, industrial truck traffic.

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 11/18/19
 Maria Parker
 Print Name
 4625 Villas Dr.
 Address
 Bonita CA 91902
 City, State, Zip Code

November 22, 2019

County of San Diego
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Attention: Mr. Robert Hingtgen
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123

County of San Diego
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Attention: Mr. Robert Hingtgen
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 110, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
Copy via email: Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

Re: 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 (Project).

To whom it may concern:

I live at 3499 Heatherwood Drive, El Cajon California 92109. I have lived there for approximately 30 years, and currently am helping to raise my three young grandchildren in our home.

This letter is written on behalf of my family and certain other homeowners. Our neighborhoods are the most directly impacted on the Southern side of the proposed Project. Phase 1 of the proposed Project will occur directly behind my home.

Some of our concerns regarding the proposed Project based on the Notice and accompanying materials include:

1. ***Health and Quality of Life Impacts.*** We need to better understand the air quality, water quality, light and sound quality and security and fire threat impacts to our community. In addition to homes immediately adjacent to the Project site there are schools and YMCA facilities within a short distance, as well as other youth oriented public spaces including parks.
2. ***Environmental Impacts.*** The Sweetwater River and adjacent open spaces within and around the proposed Project site represent a key wildlife habitat linkage and one of the most environmentally significant areas of Southern California. We are concerned that the proposed Project will present negative impacts to habitat and wildlife within and outside of the Project area including but not limited to the adjacent National Wildlife Refuge, McGinty Mountain Ecological Reserve and Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve. Environmental review of this proposed Project should consider impacts to these surrounding areas together with the whole of the Sweetwater River, and involve the requisite federal agencies. The Project proponent determined to close down the West golf course some time ago. Since then, we've witnessed a marked increase in wildlife

presence on that portion of the property notwithstanding the decision to drain certain of the ponds.

3. ***Groundwater and Flooding.*** The Project site sits within an important groundwater area. As homeowners we are concerned that the proposed Project will have negative impacts to us directly as well as to surrounding habitat, including potential for bed degradation and coarsening, lowered water tables and instability and water quality. Impacts of widening the river channel with regard to shallowing, flood control and upstream and downstream impacts to wildlife must be fully understood. The County should provide testing of existing wells and waters within and surrounding the Project site both as to water levels and quality (including for contaminants) regularly throughout the Project review process in order to establish appropriate baselines.
4. ***Traffic.*** We are concerned with the direct and indirect traffic impacts to our communities, as well as the traffic impacts to the environment. Weekend traffic associated with open space and recreational use has steadily grown and includes both vehicle and bicycle traffic. We understand that the USFWS is currently planning to build an approximately 0.9 acre gravel surface parking lot just West of Miller Ranch road to further accommodate this recreational use of our open spaces. Separate from that we are already dealing with increased traffic from the Jamul casino.
5. ***Later Activities.*** We understand that the proposed Project does not include any subsequent development of the property. While we are pleased that prior planned subsequent development of the site has been dropped from the Project plan, we note that the subsequent use of this property is now not fully defined and/or dedicated. If the subsequent use truly is to be permanent open space, then that should be clearly stated (and the Project proponent should be credited with that dedication as well as the restoration of the open space). If the Project proponent is not committing to permanent open space, then that should also be fully understood. We are mindful of prior commitments regarding subsequent uses on this property. Portions of the Project site were previously mined resulting in many of the ponds on the current site. Those were created to serve both golf course and environmental purposes. The community understanding at that time was that this prior mining would foreclose future mining. We assume that the proposal to further enlarge the Sweetwater River within the Project would reinforce the floodplain and other issues that already make this site not suitable for development, and that this time around if the Project were to proceed it will only proceed with a clear commitment as to future uses.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Cheryl Peace
(619) 442-6163



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I oppose the Cottonwood Sand Mine. I have been a Cottonwood homeowner since 1986 and enjoy the area for it's sense of community with children and families as well its beautiful golf courses and homes. I enjoy playing golf, working outside and riding my bike. All the things a community would strive to provide so the people in that area could live and work well. This sand mine would greatly impact this area with the added truck traffic, noise and possibly effect on air quality due to the dust produced by the sand.. The County of San Diego Live Well San Diego vision for building better health and living safely and thriving would definitely be compromised if this sand mine were to be housed in this densely populated community of Rancho San Diego. We don't need a sand mine that could drastically effect the quality of life in this thriving community.

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

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San Diego, CA 92123

Email: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Geraldine M. Pechtel
Commenter Signature, Date

Geraldine M. Pechtel
Print Name

1819 Bearcat Lane
Address

El Cajon Ca 92019
City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

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Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Paul Pechtel
Commenter Signature, Date

BRUCE PECHTEL
Print Name

1819 BEARCAT LANE
Address

EL CAJON CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code

Date: November 10, 2019

To: Mr. Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator

From: Michael E. Perry

2472 Wind River Road, El Cajon, CA 92019

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

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to you in **strong opposition** to the “proposed” Cottonwood Sand Mining Project for numerous reasons. I have attempted to list them below for your review and consideration:

1. First and foremost, the proposed project **IS NOT CONSISTENT** with the “Use and Character” of the area where the sand mine is being contemplated. The character of the area is **single-family residential**, not industrial.
2. Secondly, the proposed plan would completely eliminate the buffer area providing larger setback to sensitive habitat areas that the golf course now provides.
3. The proposed project would severely and negatively impact the values of thousands of homes in the surrounding area.
4. The proposed project would generate a significant amount of pollution in the area. The air would be filled with dust, smoke, unknown particulates and diesel fumes.
5. The project poses a major safety hazard as semi-trucks carrying tons of material are scheduled to make multiple trips per day on crowded roads, near elementary schools and on routes used by residents in transporting their children to nearby high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools.
6. The roads which are traveled by neighborhood residents daily are at great risk of being severely damaged by the hundreds of heavy truck loads being transported.
7. The entire eco-system that the golf course currently supports would be destroyed in its entirety. The project is located adjacent to an EXISTING National Wildlife Refuge.
8. There is the potential for significant detrimental impact to the groundwater table due to the proposed excavation depth of 35 feet.
9. There is no guarantee that the owner of the project will “reclaim” the proposed project as contemplated. There is no money “set aside” for this purpose, or letter of credit or bond required to be provided by the owner. It is not uncommon for owners/developers to file bankruptcy at the end of a project and leave altogether.
10. The proposal calls for a sand mine operating for 12 years. However, there is no guarantee that this won’t be extended further if the owner feels that there is more material to be generated.
11. The material to be extracted can be sourced from other areas and is NOT needed to support the existing construction activity in San Diego County.

Finally I would hope that you would stay true to the “Mission Statement” of the Planning and Development Services Group. The Mission Statement reads as follows:

Our Mission:

*Through operational excellence and attention to customer service, we strive to balance community, economic and environmental interests to ensure the **HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE PUBLIC OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY.***

This proposed Sand Mine does nothing but enrich the wealth of one individual residing in Beverly Hills at the EXPENSE of residents in San Diego County, as well as the surrounding environment.

Again, I ask you to consider all of the above in rendering your recommendation. Should you have any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Perry

Mperry413@cox.net

From: Mike Phillips
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 1:40:40 PM
Attachments: [Cottonwood Sand Mine EIR Input Letter.docx](#)

Date: 20 November, 2019
From: Michael Phillips (mphilips72@cox.net)
3057 Rancho Diego Circle, 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 provide input based on the CEQA Initial Study - Environmental Review Checklist Form dated October 24, 2019 available to the public at <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/ProjectPlanning/CottonwoodSandMine/NOP/MUP-18-023-InitialStudy--forNOP.pdf>

Some considerations for the EIR are below. Page numbers reference the CEQA Initial Study - Environmental Review Checklist Form.

Traffic Safety and Emissions. Page 3. The claim that Trucking operations will occur during times that “avoid peak traffic periods” needs to be studied. I have observed heavy traffic leaving Rancho San Diego (RSD) as late as 10:00 A.M. On Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at about 9:30 A.M. I was at a traffic light behind five dirt haulers heading west from RSD on Jamacha Rd. near the intersection with Campo Rd. I realize that is one data point, but the EIR needs to perform an analysis to properly quantify the additive impact from the other already-existing mining operations instead of relying solely on the applicant’s stated additional traffic requirements. Stated another way, the traffic in RSD may already be congested, and should be better understood before approving additional trucking through a Major Use Permit. A new access point proposed to be constructed at the intersection of Willow Glen Drive and Muirfield Drive may need to consider a traffic signal to slow traffic at that intersection (page 40) since it is on a curve. This would, of course, impact traffic on Willow Glen, add to air pollution in the area, and generally increase the carbon footprint of the sand mining operation. I saw several references to additional emissions from vehicles associated with the project (page 14), but increased emissions from non-project vehicles slowed or stopped for project vehicles turning on or off of Willow Glen Drive should be addressed in the EIR. Also, proponents of this project have stated that use of this site will reduce emissions because the sand will be used in San Diego; however, there is no requirement to use the sand in San Diego and may actually increase emissions depending on where the trucks deliver. The EIR should address this assertion directly: either the applicant has entered into a legal commitment to truck only within a certain distance and this can be compared to where sand comes from now, or the applicant will make no such commitment and the EIR states that county emissions could increase over current levels due to this project.

Recreation. Page 4. Recreation should be added in Paragraph 12. The site is a commercial golf establishment, so closing that for a sand mine seems to impact recreation. The community plan refers to the site as “open space (recreation),” so clearly the community plan will be meaningless for 12 years if recreation isn’t allowed to occur or cannot occur due to the hazards on the site. Additionally, because there are gaping holes in the fences of the golf course, the unmaintained golf course (formerly Lakes Course) is already being used by hikers, runners (including high school cross country teams), cyclists, and campers/homeless. Page 31 states that the site “does not provide pedestrian access through the site for nearby residents,” which is partially accurate. The owner may not have *provided* access, but there is access to cross the site. The environmental impact on the site itself, and impact on trails and cycling lanes that are near the site should be addressed. Page 41 comments (that there is no change to bike lanes, and therefore no change to bike access) are insufficient in addressing the impact of additional large trucks to cyclists on Willow Glen Drive in general and especially in the vicinity of the two access points. In other words, just because bike lanes are painted on the asphalt does not mean that the pavement will continue to be useable to cyclists.

Erosion/Drainage/Groundwater. Page 20. Regarding the question of whether the project results in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, consider rating as Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated, since the following paragraph lists the mitigation: “To minimize effects related to erosion, the project would include de-siltation basins that would prevent sediment from leaving the site while allowing

water to pass through to existing drainage features.” This section fails to address potential impacts from a 100-year flood or global warming during the course of the project, though I saw (on page 30) that the EIR will address the impact of 100-year floods on *temporary structures*. If a 100-year flood washes out the stored topsoil on site, then this could have a potentially significant loss of *topsoil*. The EIR should include detail on the efficacy of de-siltation basins and other mitigators. I am concerned that the potential groundwater impact is insufficiently understood. Although the applicant states that the sand mining operation will pull less water from the on-site wells than the golf course had previously used, the sand mining operation has the potential to hit ground water and cause evaporation that the golf course didn’t contend with, or introduce pollutants into the ground water this way. This should be addressed in the EIR.

Campers/Homeless. Encampments have sometimes been established downstream and adjacent to the site. There is evidence of occasional encampments on the site. The CEQA Initial Study does not mention these populations or their planned impact mitigations. The EIR should address this.

Future development. The Plot Plan available to the public at this link (<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/ProjectPlanning/CottonwoodSandMine/NOP/MUP-18-023-PlotPlanAndReclamationPlan.pdf>) refers to the establishment of pads for possible future development. Future development is not addressed in the CEQA Initial Study. The EIR reclamation assessment should be consistent with the Plot Plan and address the pads and development planned following the mining operation. If this becomes too complicated, then the applicant should drop the establishment of pads for possible future development and grade the project for open space. If the end state is to grade for development, then the EIR should assess this. If the County allows the applicant to grade for development, then the current zoning and community plans clearly need to be reviewed and updated through established processes prior to reclamation grading.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mike Phillips

Date: 11-20-19
From: Rian Pinson, mizrian@yahoo.com
3245 Cottonwood Springs Lane, Jamul, CA 91935
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.

My son is only 5 and just started school at Jamacha Elementary. I am VERY concerned about the sediment in the air that will impact him and all the kids who want to play outside. We need to encourage kids to play outside and not have them become sick due to this. Think of the kids and the neighborhood.

Sincerely,



From: Tom Poling
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine - Against
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:18:05 PM

Robert Hingtgen
County Planning and Development Services

Sir,

I am AGAINST approval of the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine.

The sand mine site is almost totally surrounded by developed residential housing or retail business. It is impossible for an operating sand mine to keep all the sand dust from being blown by the wind into the surrounding community. This would create a sever health issue and cleaning nuisance for the residents in the area.

It is likely that during the 10 years of planned operation that the area will experience an El Niño rainy season like the ones that occurred in the 1990's. What plans are proposed for severe flooding and water being released from Loveland reservoir?

Mining this sand would have been a viable option 75 years ago, before the area was developed. But now, it's time has passed.

Thank you.

Thomas C Poling
17410 Standing Rock Road
Jamul, CA 91935
(619) 445-9216
tompoling@gmail.com



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

I am against the Cottonwood Sand Mine project for safety reasons and for health reasons. The safety reasons are the 176 large, sand-filled trucks that will be on the Ranch San Diego streets from 7 a.m. to 5 pm Monday thru Friday. That's 17.6 extra trucks per hour that are not there now. The health issues involve the dust created by the excavation. Valley Fever is one of the concerns. I had a friend with Valley Fever and the cure is to crack you open and remove the affected part of your lungs - not a pleasant experience.

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

Gary D. Reece 11/14/19
Commenter Signature, Date

Gary D. Reece
Print Name

2140 Packard Place
Address

El Cajon, CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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

NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

Here is a list of my concerns:

- #1 Priority - Health issue, exposure to silica dust can lead to the development of lung cancer, silicosis, kidney disease & chronic obstruction pulmonary disease. Cancer risks increase with long term or repeated high level exposure (176 ^{truck} round trips) Daily! Elementary school + elderly home near by.
- #2 - How many accidents will this cause?? There is already too much traffic on Willow Glen with big rigs.
- #3 - What is that going to do to our roads?
- #4 - When was this changed with ^{the} county from recreational area to ~~landmine~~ sandmine? Who was paid off? This does not belong in our community!!

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

Leticia C. Reece 11/15/19
Commenter Signature, Date

Leticia C. Reece
Print Name

2140 Packard Place
Address

El Cajon, CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code

From: emarypierce@aol.com
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Proposed Sand Mine on Cottonwood Golf Course
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 5:21:03 AM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

We hear that you are the person in charge of taking the concerns of the residents being affected by the proposed Sand Mine on Cottonwood Golf Course to the next Government agencies with the power to make or break this proposal, so we are contacting you about this very detrimental proposition.

We have been to many of the concerned resident meetings, and have also been following the procedures of Mr. Schlesenger and his companies regarding other golf course takeovers in Poway and Escondido. So we

are very aware of this proposal. We have been watching as the Escondido Club House accidentally BURNED TO THE GROUND- and his success with finally getting his housing development pushed through in the other. This all makes us very aware of his successes in his endeavors-over the adamant objections of the surrounding residents, and we are also aware of the power of money, and having large corporations in your back pocket, to change the minds of the governmental agencies as to the overriding benefit of the fact that there is a Sand Shortage for the production of concrete and concrete products, and the sand is perfect, in this case.

We are also aware that there is a sand shortage world wide, it is very severe, and that the sand dunes, and other sand on this planet, such as deserts, is not of the right consistency to be used in the production of commercial products, like cement. So we understand the urgency of the arguments they are making to the government of California, and you as their representative.

We are not going to reiterate all of the EPA concerns, traffic concerns, Valley Fever concerns, surrounding housing, schools, local Elderly Care Facillites concerns-as we have been apprised of the reality of the fact that these have been adequately addressed in the hundreds of other letters, and calls you have received in this regard.

Now to the root our our concerns in this matter. We have lived in this home on Wind River Road, in the unincorporated area of Rancho Sand Diego for 30 years, and are located directly above the Cottonwood Golf Club. We are in our 70's, and have watched as this course has turned from one of the premier Golf Courses in Southern California, to one where it is partially shut down, and the rest is marginally maintained, in readiness for the crains and trucks to start moving in. This has not gone unnoticed by residents, golfers, homeowners, who are only in the last few years starting to recover home valuations, after losing half of their values in the 2008 financial collapse of housing.

We are Michigan natives, and have been involved in other events such as this--big corporations that wanted to make a "forever Garbage Landfill -that, of course, "Will be reclaimed in the end"- in an abandoned closed mining operation, also surrounded by housing developments,schools, hospitals, retirement homes-with absolutely no concern for public safety, or housing values.

We won in many of these cases, and continue to hope this will also be another win for the community at large, as everything everyone who has taken an active role in this is painfully aware!

As far as EPA regulations are concerned, I am sure you have heard most of them from other residents, here is just one more. A few years ago Jamacha road was widened to 6 lanes, and the government mandated that Plywood 10 feet high was installed for miles to mitigate the noise and environmental impact for the "protected breeding birds in the wildlife area", so the breeding patterns of the birds would not be disturbed. I am sure you are aware that the cost of that protective barrier was over a Million Dollars!

That same Preserve borders on the Golf Course! I doubt highly the EPA rules have changed lately.

Hopefully, you have gotten all the relevant information from all concerned, in order to plead this case for this community! If there is anything else we can do to help you in this project, please don't hesitate to call.

Jack Reiland
Elaine Pierce
2316 Wind River Road
El Cajon, Ca 92019

619-368-7477
emarypierce@aol.com
reilandjr@yahool.com

From: Steve Reinstein
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: ["Elizabeth Urquhart"](#)
Subject: RE: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Friday, November 08, 2019 10:00:34 PM

Mr. Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Diego
Planning and Development Services

Please find attached (1) a document containing the comments I made during the Monday, November 4 meeting and (2) a copy of the comments I had submitted in December of last year. Pursuant to our discussions on Monday, I am submitting the additional comments below.

In listening to the concerns expressed during the November 4 EIR Public Scoping Meeting with respect to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001) and after review of documentation for the El Monte Sand Mining Project (PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, EIS Chapter 2.2, Air Quality and Appendix Q, Valley Fever Technical Report), I have reached the conclusion that the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project poses health risks that are unacceptable to our community.

Three factors weigh into consideration in the risk analysis: the airborne dust that is an expected result of the mining operations; silicosis; and Valley Fever. The vectors pushing these risk elements into the community arise out of the very nature of the mining activities. It is a virtual certainty that there will be an airborne plume created by the mine and the extensive material handling involved. The effectiveness of control by watering three times per day is offset to an unknown extent by the simple fact that San Diego County has an arid climate, with East County relative humidity often dropping into the single digit range. The use of sweeping equipment to control dust carries the potential for increasing the airborne quantity of fine particles.

While the mining employees are likely to benefit from the protection afforded by respirators, this is a form of protection that will not extend to the surrounding population. The air quality conditions on site do not magically vanish at the site boundaries. We remain at risk.

As has been pointed out, the sand mine would have as neighbors an elementary school and a senior living facility, two of the most at-risk groups. The population density of the surrounding community is such that it will also include a significant number of pre-school-age children, who are perhaps the most vulnerable of us all. Statistic based impact predictions based on larger, more diverse population groups contain a bias for understatement of the undesirable health impacts the sand mining would bring into this community.

My greatest fear is that the project is approved and we find our community suffering from negative health impacts beyond what is envisioned in the Environmental Impact Report. In such a case the County may find it is estopped from revoking a permit issued based on expected health impacts well below actual experience. That is the point at which we are no longer neighbors and residents, we are victims, and those who have approved the project can but hang their heads in shame and guilt.

Sincerely,

Stephen Reinstein
3364 Indian Mills Lane
Jamul, CA 91935

From: Carol Rice
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Golf Course Sandmine
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 7:11:06 PM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen ,

As a born and raised native and having grown up in the East County and an avid equestrian and hiker who has been using the trails behind this golf course for over 20 years , I would hate to see that land destroyed. Not only could it be in the worst possible area ... residential homes and the wildlife refuge ... it would bring health risks to me having a compromised immune system. My hope is that the land is left as is.

Very respectfully,

Carol Rice

Sent from my iPhone

From: Diane Richards
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Golf Course
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:15:34 AM

Mr Hingtgen,

> I am writing to oppose the proposed plans to turn Cottonwood Golf Club in Rancho San Diego into a 214 acre sand mining operation.

> I am opposed for the following reasons:

> -First and foremost, this is a residential community.

> -Degradation of the air and water quality.

> -Lowered property values.

> -Increased noise and traffic.

>

> I shop and work out at the YMCA in Rancho San Diego. It is the community hub for our area.

>

> I request your consideration of my concerns.

>

> Thank you,

> Diane Richards

> 1474 Merritt Drive 92020

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: KATHRYN RILEY
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood sand mine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 10:53:15 AM

After sitting through three hours of articulate, passionate community members expressing their well founded opposition to this proposed project, we was bolstered in our opposition to creating a sand mine at Cottenwood. I wonder how any sentient being could ever present a plan which is so utterly damaging to the environment and to the community which it would impact. I have lived in East County my entire 72 years and have seen the devastation that greed and compliant officials have perpetrated on our once healthy area. I guess that I still have the capacity to be appalled by those who think that their bottom line is the most important factor in all their decisions. Please make me, and my husband who feels as I do, and our entire area feel that wisdom and justice have prevailed and deny this ill conceived pillage from proceeding any further.

Thank you.

Kathryn Riley and Brian Andrews

From: Marilyn Riley
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 10:57:56 AM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

My sister Judy Oechel (judyoechel@att.net) and I are native San Diegans who grew up on our parents' ranch in El Cajon, when the real Sweetwater River still existed. Now what is left of that once beautiful river is under threat by a greedy, immoral, Beverly Hills developer whose sand mine project will endanger wildlife, native sacred sites, and the people, like my sister, who live in the area. During our seven+ decades, my sister and I have watched in dismay while San Diego County's beautiful open spaces have been destroyed by over-development. This project is just another attack on our quality of life. Please record our comments in strong opposition to the sand mine project. My husband Robert Grand joins us in making this request.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Marilyn Riley
Robert Grand
2372 Orchard Avenue
El Cajon 92019
Judith Oechel
3675 Alta Loma Drive
Jamul 91935

From: Rochelle Risley
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sandmine
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 12:09:13 PM

We have lived in the Cottonwood Springs Area off Jamul Dr for 20 years. In the last 5 years, there has been a huge increase in traffic due to traffic coming from Tecate, Jamul Casino, expanded Sycuan casino and Robertson gravel.

The plan to sand mine in this residential area is so environmentally bad, it is unimaginable to be acceptable.

The quality of air would be impacted in such close proximity to schools and homes.

This natural flood zone should not be destroyed by greed. We are completely against the mining of sand in this community. R Risley

Sent from my iPhone



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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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

As a business owner, animal lover,
mother and pregnant person who lives
less than a mile from the proposed
sand mine site, I strongly oppose the
inclusion of such a short-sighted
development in our community. Besides
the personal impacts of this project,
I am also acutely aware of the
environmental + biological impacts. I'd
prefer to see the land turned into
biological + riparian preserve as-is.

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

Lessa Ritzma 1-4-19

Commenter Signature, Date

Lessa Ritzma

Print Name

12310 Campo Road

Address

Spring Valley, CA 91978

City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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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

To Whom it May concern: STOP Cottonwood Sand mine & it would be prudent for County of San Diego to not Allow the Cottonwood Golf Course to be transitioned to a Sand Mine. The negative impact to this property and community includes: negative air quality, noise, unknown water level that would change; sensitive population at risk, that includes schools, Resident facilities for Adolescents & seniors

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

Donna Roberts 11/19/19
Commenter Signature, Date

Donna Roberts
Print Name

1573 Eastside Rd
Address

El Cajon CA 92020
City, State, Zip Code

From: Robbie Robinson
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Cc: [Jacob, Dianne](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 2:03:16 PM

Mr. Hingtgen,

I have reviewed the information provided to the public regarding the Cottonwood Sand Mine "CSM".

My family and I have resided at 3110 Sunflower Glen Court, Jamul since October 1997. When we acquired the property at 3110 Sunflower Glen Court, I had expected increased traffic on Jamul Road and Steele Canyon Road with the development of Steele Canyon Golf Course and adjacent Steele Canyon Estates on the south side of Jamul Road.

With the positive economic improvements since the recession of 2008/2009 Jamul's population has seen steady growth.

What I had not expected was the significant growth of Sycuan's Casino, Hotel and Spa.

Additionally, no one expected the Jamul Indian Tribe would receive approval to build their casino in the middle of a residential area off Hwy 94. Also, note, Hwy 94 still remains a two lane road.

Not even taking into account the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine's impact on traffic, current traffic from the two casinos and population growth are having a negative impact on egress and ingress on Hwy 94, Jamul Road, Steele Canyon Road and Willow Glen Drive.

Still focused on traffic, the egress and ingress of the Cottonwood Sand Mine's trucks on to Willow Glen Drive will create a dangerous traffic situation.

Then we can add in the negative impact on property values from noise pollution, air pollution, esthetics and the potential for negative modifications to the original CSM plan during the 10-12 year project.

It is difficult for me to understand how this plan is even being proposed. There are just too many negative issues with this plan.

I do trust, San Diego's County Board of Supervisors supports their constituents when reviewing plans for this proposed project.

Regards,
George Robinson
3110 Sunflower Glen Court
Jamul, CA 91935
619 851-5678

From: Margaret Robinson
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: cottonwood sand mine
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 5:37:46 PM

To:
Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123
MS O-650
(858) 694-3712

Please be informed I oppose the Cottonwood Sand Mine plan for Rancho San Diego.

Thank You

Marshall and Margaret Robinson

11661 Via Diana
El Cajon, CA 92019

From: Mary Robinson.
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#); [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Oppose cottonwood sand mine project
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 11:22:03 PM

Dear Sir:

By now I am sure you have heard from many of my neighbors, teachers and friends in Rancho San Diego. It is obvious that we are ALL ADAMANTLY OPPOSED to the cottonwood sand mine project. It would be a complete injustice if it were allowed to move forward.

As has been presented with great thought and detail, this project would destroy our community, our environment, the health of our citizens and the property values of those hardworking families that have invested hearts and souls into this community. My home happens to be less than 3 blocks from the golf course. It's the reason I moved there and invested my entire life savings into the property.

This location is NOT a spot for a sand mine. There are miles and miles of desolate areas in San Diego County in which to mine for Sand. What is the issue with mining in those areas where there are no homes, schools, neighborhoods or businesses already established and invested? If the answer is that the sand is not the same, it's more costly...I am sure the construction industry and modern technology can work on solutions. Frankly that's not our problem. It does not belong in our neighborhood!

My fellow constituents and myself will do everything in our power to stop this from moving forward.

We hope we have your support!

Mary Robinson
3041 Palm Vista Court
[\(619\) 778-9768](tel:6197789768)

Sent from my iPhone

From: Michaele Robinson
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood sandmine project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 10:05:26 AM

I have lived near Willow Glen Drive for 20 years while my son was in local schools. During these years the traffic on Willow Glen has increased exponentially, which has, for the most part, been caused by the Sycuan casino and trucks from the gravel quarry. If the sand mine project is permitted, it would increase the traffic and dust even more, affecting students from several elementary schools, middle schools, and two high schools.

The noise created by all this increased traffic is such that many people cannot enjoy their house's outside spaces anymore. We can still see the occasional hawk or crow or other chaparral wildlife, but they would be gone if this project is approved. It would affect literally everyone living near this area. This includes the entire valley and surrounding hillsides.

No one would benefit from this except the mine's owner, but thousands of people would see a decrease in life style, property values, and all around atmosphere.

Please consider these facts in your review of this. Thank you for your help.

Michaele Robinson
Sawgrass Street
Corte Madera, RSD

Sent from my iPhone

Date: November 19, 2019
From: Ron Robinson
RonRobinson@cox.net
3041 Palm Vista Court
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,



Hi Wendy!

We are on the verge of losing a historic and beautiful golf course.

In the process our school children at Jamacha Elementary are in danger of contracting severe allergies and lung disease from the Silica that will be disbursed into the air.

There will be 21 trucks every hour on the road 5 to 6 days per week clogging our local roads from as early as 4:00 am to 7:00 PM.

Our property values will plummet.

There will be a negative effect on the water supply to Sweetwater Reservoir by removing the sand that purifies the annual water flow through Cottonwood Golf Course.

This area is zoned for home and recreation and not for a Sand Mine.

Please veto the Major Permit 18-023 for the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project.

Thank you!

Concerned Citizen of Rancho San Diego.

Ron Robinson

RonRobinson@cox.net

619-778-3926

From: Minet Rodriguez
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Environmental impact report input for cottonwood sand mining project
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 3:55:04 PM

Dr Mr. Hingtgen,

I strongly oppose the proposed sand mine in Rancho San Diego. My parents live in this neighborhood and it is congested already to get into this area. Large trucks coming in and out will only add to the problem. My parents bought a beautiful home on a golf course to retire in and the proposed idea will not only devalue their property but will completely destroy the peaceful environment where their grandkids play. It will be noisy, dirty and not the same place they moved to. My kids love to play in their organic garden and the pollution from this project is also a concern.

Please consider the negative effects this project will have on the residents. Safety, traffic, air/water/noise pollution and the decrease in property value should all be taken into consideration before approving this project.

Sincerely,
Minet Rodriguez
minettaylor@me.com

Sent from my iPhone

Date: 11 November, 2019
From: Charles Romano (chasroma@cox.net)
3033 Cottonwood View Drive, 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 Mine proposal**

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

My family and I strongly object to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. I don't understand how an industrial, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of family residents, an elementary school, a teen rehab facility, and already overcrowded and narrow roadways can even be considered for our rural community, adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge.

The proposal states a 12 year time frame, an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock, 88 truck round trips per day. Though we county residents would bear the pain of the mining operation, there is no guarantee, nor requirement, that the product from this mining will benefit residents of San Diego County.

The proposal is untenable for several reasons:

An open pit excavation down to as much as 40 feet will have a severe and negative impact on the quality of our air, noise, water, traffic, and the look and country feel of our community.

Heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community.

Probable sever damage to endangered species, due to their habitat destruction.

Probable groundwater impact; direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment, disruption of existing flow patterns, unknown effect to resident wells, impacts to the Sweetwater Riverbed, and Sweet water reservoir.

I am sure from the owner's perspective this is good business. Unfortunately this business is very bad for our community. 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.

Please don't hesitate to call me, at the number below, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charles Romano

619 994 0925

From: Hannah Romano
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 8:45:33 AM

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to you today to share that my family and I strongly object to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. I don't understand how an industrial, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of family residents, an elementary school, a teen rehab facility, and already overcrowded and narrow roadways can even be considered for our rural community, adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge.

The proposal states a 12-year time frame, an estimated 5.7 million tons of sand and rock, 88 truck round trips per day, doesn't fit well in a residential area. Our home is along the Cottonwood Golf Course and the water shed that flows yearly along the riverbed is one that our community relies on. The open space is home to animals we see daily, Cranes, egrets, coyotes and rabbits. All this space would be lost to them. They use it as a passage way from one side of the valley to the other.

The proposal is untenable for several reasons:

An open pit excavation down to as much as 40 feet will have a severe and negative impact on the quality of our air, noise, water, traffic, and the look and country feel of our community.

Heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment, along with the dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community.

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Sincerely,

Hannah Romano

November 12th, 2019

Karen Romano

(kromano@leaf-cole.com)

3033 Cottonwood View Drive, El Cajon, CA 92019

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

San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mine proposal

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to you today to share that my family and I strongly object to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. I don't understand how an industrial, long-term mining operation within yards of hundreds of family residents, an elementary school, a teen rehab facility, and already overcrowded and narrow roadways can even be considered for our rural community, adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge.

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Sincerely,



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
(858) 694-2662 • 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

A sand mine in the middle of a residential area would have a negative impact on our community. It would cause traffic problems, reduce home values and degrade the quality of our environment.

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

Connie Rossin 11-17-19
Committer Signature, Date
Connie Rossin
Print Name
2470 Valhalla View Dr.
Address
El Cajon, CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code

From: Rochelle Rubinstein
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Sand mine in Rancho San Diego
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 2:35:19 PM

Dear Sir,

I am writing you to let you know that I am EXTREMELY opposed to the construction of a sand mine in my community. I have been a homeowner in Cottonwood for 33 years. I overlook the Cottonwood Golf Course and the proposed sand mine. There are absolutely no benefits to this sand mine ONLY damaging and harmful effects. This is not what the master plan of my community was intended for. Please DO NOT ENDORSE THIS!!

Thank-you.

--

Rochelle Rubinstein
Teach1729@gmail.com

Angel Salazar
3068 Ivanhoe Ranch Rd.
El Cajon, CA. 92019

November 21, 2019

San Diego County and Valle de Oro Community Planning Groups
Robert Hingtgen, Planner III
David Johnston, Chairman
Dear Mr. Hingtgen, Mr. Johnston,

Reference Application number:

Proposed Cottonwood Golf Course Sand Mine

I write in connection with the above planning application. I have examined the plans and I know the site well, having lived and worked in the area since 1962. I wish to object strongly to the development of the Sand Mining Operation at Cottonwood Golf Course for the following reasons:

1. Highway Safety, from Semi-Trucks entering at slow speeds onto Willow Glen Rd.
2. Traffic generation from over 200 plus Semi-trucks per day 21 trucks per hour on Willow Glen plus Casino buses and patrons, Two High Schools, one Elementary School one Middle School and local Residential travel.
3. Cost to taxpayers for added maintenance to road damage from heavy truck traffic.
4. Loss of accessible green space and open land.
5. Health concerns from dust, and pathogens released by mining sand.
6. Noise, disturbance and pollution from mining and transportation equipment, back-up alarms, etc. Starting at 4:00 am to 5:00 pm, possibly 6 days per week.
7. Water table contamination from unknown fill materials.
8. Sweetwater River aquifer disruption and contamination, when water is released from Loveland Dam to Sweetwater Dam.
9. Effect on wildlife and surrounding conservation area.
10. Possibility of trucks using Ivanhoe Ranch Rd as "Shortcut" to Hwy. 94.
11. Loss of endangered Sycamore trees, Cottonwood, etc.

I also support the members of Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine on this planning application as I share their concerns.

Respectfully yours,
Angel Salazar

From: Shannon Savinon (JA)
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Golf Course
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019 2:09:35 PM

PLEASE stop the owner of Cottonwood Golf course from turning our community into a sand mine! This is a nature preserve and zoned for recreation. It will endanger our health and bring unnecessary traffic, noise and air pollution to our school.

Best Regards,

Shannon Saviñon
Teacher
Jamacha Elementary School



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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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

IF THIS PROJECT IS OKD + COMPLETED IN 10-13 YEARS, WHAT GUARANTEES DO WE (THE COMMUNITY, + CO. GOVT) HAVE THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE "RECLAIMED" TO A USEFUL BENEFIT TO US (WILDERNESS, PARK, RECREATION/ESTHETIC)? HOW WILL THE "RECLAMATION" BE PAID FOR? WORTHLESS IF CO GOES BANKRUPT, CRIMINAL CHARGES, ETC. (REMEMBER, JAMUL HAS A CASINO THAT PROMISED 6-7 STREET IMPROVEMENTS PER THEIR IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY - SO FAR ONLY IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN TO THE ACCESS TO THE CASINO. BEEN YEAR FUNDS FOR THE RECLAMATION SHOULD BE IN PLACE PRIOR TO THE PROJECT'S STARTING OR PLACED IN AN ACCOUNT SAY 10% OF COST PER YEAR FOR 10 YEARS. THESE FUNDS SHOULD BE IN 2030-33 DOLLARS NOT 2020 DOLLARS. WHO WILL MAINTAIN THIS RECLAIMED AREA SO DOESN'T JUST BECOME A WEED PATCH + FIRE HAZARD + HOW WILL THIS BE PAID FOR.

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

 11-4-2019
Commenter Signature, Date

DENNIS SCHARER
Print Name

13127 RIO BRAVA CT
Address

JAMUL, CA 91935
City, State, Zip Code

DRSCHARER@COX.NET

Date: (November 5, 2019)
From: (Dimitrios Schärer) (DRSCHARER@COX.NET)
(Physical Address) BRAVA CT, JAMUL, CA 91935
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,



From: Tom Scheer
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Re: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 11:00:04 AM

I am sending this email to express my opposition to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine. I have been a resident of this East County area for over 40 years. If the plan to allow a sand mining operation is allowed, the environmental devastation would be irreparable. The dust and noise generated by the trucks and mining equipment would severely impact the residents and businesses of the area, as well as the watershed of the Sweetwater River which runs through the property.

As Environmental Coordinator of the County of San Diego, I hope in making your decision you will represent the wishes of the people of these communities, who are strongly united in their opposition the the Sand Mine proposal.

Sincerely,

Thomas Scheer

From: Tim Schneider
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine proposal must not be approved.
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 11:26:44 AM

> Robert,

> I am taking the time out of my busy day to write you about the proposal for the Cottonwood sand mining operation that would have 70 large trucks an hour traveling onto Willow Glen, Jamacha, and the surrounding area roads.

>

> I implore YOU to come to RSD during commuter times (morning or evening) and experience the traffic congestion as it is right NOW. There are so many double trailers hauling granite/rock from 2 large active mining operations in the neighborhood (Within 2 miles of each other and both less than 1 mile from proposed site). Their trucks (especially once loaded) have a hard time accelerating up hills and going from a stop up to the speed of traffic. Cars veer around these trucks trying to avoid slowing down and they create a public safety hazard. Each of the 70 trips will create an entire lane of traffic behind them that cannot travel at a reasonable speed. I cannot even imagine the added congestion that 70 fully loaded trucks an hour would add to the slow down. This is an absolutely ridiculous use of this land given the current traffic congestion. Let's set that aside and consider the road damage hundreds of thousands of tons of truck miles will have on the already terrible roads like Jamacha. Please also consider the Noise...The east county is about chirping birds and peaceful larger properties, not more dust, more trucks, more traffic, and more noise.

> The current two mines were opened and operated for a long time prior to most people investing in their homes. An operation like this will create so much additional traffic and noise that property values will have go down and would result in lower property taxes collected and a less robust east county real estate market, taxabase, school bond funding, and an reduction in the overall quality of residential life her in El Cajon. Also, one must consider the environmental damage mining sand and changing the natural landscape that many homes look upon and water uses to find its way to our local waterways. Countless protected species would be impacted and the idea that mining near a place that receives excess water during the rainy season seems like a half-baked idea. An idea rooted in profit over people, money over quality of life..

>

> Have you personally ever driven down Chase Ave. or Jamacha behind a loaded granite trailer? It is a slow and frustrating process. If you are a reasonable person and have ever lived in the area and/or driven around here you would have no way to approve (or even consider) such a disastrous idea,. Please don't accept the terrible "business" idea and allow money to be the primary consideration by condoning the raping of beautiful land over the comfort and quality of life of the many thousands of residents that will surely be negatively impacted by this plans implementation.

>

> Thanks for listening,

>

> Tim Schneider
> 1735 Hillside Lane
> 92019

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>>.



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

PLEASE ADD THIS TO OUR NEXT GENERAL
ELECTION. IT IS HARD FOR ANYTHING TO GET
A LANDSLIDE WIN, BUT THIS WILL.

ENOUGH SAID.

PLEASE REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THIS
COMMUNITY AND REJECT THE 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

Mark J. Semancsian

Commenter Signature, Date

MARK J. SEMANCSIAN

Print Name

2509 SAWGRASS

Address

EL CAJON, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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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

I PURCHASED MY HOME, ON 2509 SAWGRASS,
200' FROM THE GOLF COURSE. I WAS TOLD
BY THE BROCHURE THAT THIS WAS A GOLF
COURSE COMMUNITY. I WAS SHOWN THAT THE
GOLF COURSE WAS ZONED FOR RECREATION
ONLY. IF THE COUNTY CHANGES THAT
ZONING, HOW MUCH WILL I BE COMPENSATED?
OR, WILL THE GOLF COURSE OR COUNTY
PURCHASE MY HOME, AT A PREMIUM, PAY MY
RELOCATION COSTS, AND LET ME
TRANSFER MY PROPERTY TAX BASIS.

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

Mark J. Semancsin
Commenter Signature, Date

MARK J. SEMANCSIN
Print Name

2509 SAW GRASS ST
Address

EL CAJON, CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code



County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW
DIRECTOR

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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

HOW DO WE GET THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR HOME
VALUES BACK IF YOU REZONE THE GOLF COURSE
PROPERTY? DO YOU COLLECT THE MONEY FROM THE
OWNER OR DO YOU, OUR GOVERNMENT, PAY US
UP FRONT?

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

Martin Semancin 11/10/19
Commenter Signature, Date

Martin Semancin
Print Name

12074-56 Calle de Leon
Address

El Cajon CA 92019
City, State, Zip Code

From: tom shaddox
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood sand mining proposal
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 11:35:57 AM

Sir:

I'm writing to express my opposition to a permit to allow a sand mining operation in the Sweetwater River bottom on the Cottonwood golf course. There are many reasons that this is not the appropriate use of this property.

I am concerned about traffic in the area. Traffic on Steele Canyon Rd. and Jamul drive has increased significantly since the opening of the Jamul Casino which I realize you have no control over. Hwy #94 traffic has increased to the point that many people prefer an alternate route to Jamul and are using Willow Glen Road to Steele Canyon to Jamul Dr. to get there. Add to this the already crowded traffic on Willow Glen Rd. from The many Robertson's Redi Mix trucks and increased traffic to the Sycuan Casino which just keeps getting worse. If you allow the Sand Mine the traffic on Willow Glen will become unreasonable. Our residential neighborhoods have already suffered from the noise and inconvenience without dumping the traffic from the sand mine in the middle of it.

I am also concerned about the effects that the mining project will have environmentally on the area. The river bottom is a riparian habitat with endangered species living in it. I know this because I was a Manager at Hazard Construction Company when we widened Jamacha road from Willow glen to Hwy #94 and Hwy #94 from Jamacha to Via Mercado. To Mitigate this construction the County spent over \$600,000 building a temporary sound wall to protect the Least Bell's Vireo's (a bird on the endangered species list known to be in the river bottom) from the noise we would be making by widening the roadbed. The sand mining operation will destroy their habitat as well as create noise from excavators, loaders, conveyor belts, generators and trucks operating in the river bottom daily.

I am concerned about the effect the mining operation will have on the water quality in the river bottom which is contributory to the public potable water supply at Sweetwater Lake. I feel this needs careful consideration.

I am concerned about what effect the mining of this sand would have on air quality in the area. In particular the emmisions and particulate matter scattered during mining operations. importantly any Silica emissions could have a disastrous health effect on the surrounding neighborhoods and the Grammer school located less than 400 yards from the proposed mining operation.

In general if permitted this operation would have a very negative effect on the quality of life in the area all around it which is all residential. This type of operation has no place in the residential community which surrounds it and is an all together unacceptable use of the property in this situation. I ask that you give these points careful consideration and agree that this permit should not be granted.

Thomas D. Shaddox
3160 Cottonwood Springs Lane
Jamul, CA 91935
PH# (619) 954-7781

From: diana shamon
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Re Sand mine on Cottonwood
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019 7:26:48 PM

Hi Robert,

I am emailing you to refute the potential sand mine on Willowglen. I live at 2658 Sawgrass Street. This is a neighborhood full of kids who play outside and seniors who enjoy themselves in their backyards.

The noise, dust and air quality will be hazardous and unwelcome in the neighborhood. I am pleading with you to turn down this proposal.

My daughter plays outside in the backyard on a daily basis. I will be reluctant to let her outside with the air quality and constant rumbling that is to come.

I hope we together can change the county's mind. Please keep our neighborhood and community free of this sand mine.

Sincerely,

Diana M Shamon

From: Alejandra Shanahan
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Golf Course change to Salt mining
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 11:14:08 AM

Mr. Robert Hingtgen,

I am sending this email to you with concern to the neighborhood. I am concerned with all the pollution it will bring to our area and for the wildlife that is living in the area. I am sure there's a much better location to put a Salt Mining Field, than in the backyards of our community. It would be devastating if a young child get hurt as they walk home past this location. It's not safe for them or the High School students that run Cross-country and have to breathe in that debris that is probably not good for their lungs and later on could cause problems in their health, and then fall back on to the approval of putting a salt mine on to the property. I hope you have considered that as a huge red flag to not approve of a salt mine. Not to mention the wildlife. In a Democratic State that should be a huge priority to keep our wildlife preserved as much as possible. Also, to keep us safe from Pollutants. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Ali Shanahan

From: Marlene Shannon
To: [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)
Subject: Cottonwood Sand Mine
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 12:27:54 PM

COTTONWOOD SAND MINE

County of San Diego 11/4/19 EIR Public Scoping Meeting – Comment Sheet

A sand mine and a 12 year long sand mining operation in the middle of a residential community is a REALLY BAD IDEA.

The 250 acre Cottonwood Golf Course (now the proposed site for the sand mine) was the nexus for the homes, schools, churches, retirement facilities, restaurants, recreation and entertainment venues which now make up this community. This 250 acre site of open space is a valuable asset both aesthetically and ecologically and it is an integral part of the immediate and surrounding area. It is also a very important buffer zone for the National Wildlife Refuge which is home to a number of endangered species.

The aesthetic value of the current site cannot be duplicated. The peace and quiet of the landscape, the rustle of the trees, the lush green color after the rains, the singing of the birds, the wildlife after dark - - - it's medicine for the soul.

The destruction of this pristine site and the unquestionable support it provides to community, the environment, the preservation of wildlife, water quality, health and safety should not be permitted.

The sheer magnitude of the project –

- the removal of over 7,000,000 tons of earth from nearly 90% of the site with excavation as deep as 40 feet will leave a huge and irreparable scar on the topography.

- 214 acres of serene beauty will be torn up, dug up, earth and sand and rock up to 40 feet down will be ripped out and hauled away leaving an endless pit for future re-vegetation.

- re-vegetation success using the scraped and unused site material is highly questionable. Soil pollution – contamination by trace elements causes deterioration of soil biology and fertility.

- The removal of 70 million tons of earth will leave a huge crevasse. The site elevation will be as much as 25 feet below its current elevation. The site will forever be significantly and negatively altered.

- the excavation will disrupt the flow pattern of the Sweetwater River and will likely affect water processing at Sweetwater Reservoir, at a cost to be passed on to we the consumers.

- continued extraction may cause the entire streambed to degrade to the depth of excavation, which will generally be around 25 feet though up to as much as 40 feet. This is a very real possibility and of major significance.

- wells will be severely impacted and possibly dry up

- the sand mine's water consumption for 12 years and the impact on the streambed and ground

water is of grave concern.

- the mines effect on our potable water as there will inevitably be fuel spills and other equipment and possible mine contaminates is concerning.

- the mines effect on health.

- the effects of the rest of the devastation from the excavators, the trucks, the air pollution, the noise pollution, and health and safety. that will take place over the course of 10 plus years.

- a conveyor line will be built and it will clank and clatter and grind noisily every week day for 10 years as it continuously transports the mined material to the processing plant.

- grading will take place for the construction of a processing plant where, for at least 10 years the mined material (aggregate) will be screened and washed.

- a processing plant will be built (size unknown)

- three settling ponds will be built (size unknown)

- a scale house and weigh scales will be built (size unknown)

- there will be a large area (size unknown) where trucks will be loaded with sand to make their 176 round trips per day.

- there will be:

two storage containers (size unknown)

an office trailer

an office kiosk.

This mining project will have significant and negative effects including but not limited to:

traffic – 176 diesel truck round trips per day for at least 10 years. That's one round trip every 3 2/3 minutes for the next 10 years, spewing diesel and exhaust fumes into the air and creating constant noise pollution and traffic congestion.

- plus 36 other vehicle and vendor round trips per day. One every 13 1/3 minutes for the next 10 years

noise pollution – the constant and inescapable diesel truck noise alone would be mentally debilitating to say nothing of the rest of the noise from the heavy equipment, the constant banging and clatter of the conveyor line, the washing and screening of aggregate, the loading of the trucks and the overall noise of the operation.

visual pollution - in addition to the devastation of the land, the unsightly appearance of a processing plant, settling ponds, scale house and weigh scales, conveyor line, storage containers, office trailer, office kiosk, excavators, large sand trucks (number unknown), a large area (size unknown) where trucks will be loaded, 18 vendor vehicles, numerous employee vehicles for 10 or more years

air pollution – dust, silica dust, exhaust fumes

Crystalline silica is a basic component of soil, and sand.

(Inhaling crystalline **silica** can lead to serious, sometimes fatal illnesses including silicosis, lung cancer, tuberculosis (in those with silicosis), and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In addition, **silica** exposure has been linked to other illnesses including renal disease and other cancers.)

Every yard of sand that's excavated, and every yard of sand that's loaded onto the conveyor line, or onto a truck or moved for any reason whatsoever will create silica dust pollution. The dust pollution will be air born and wind driven spreading the contamination far and wide.

Sand will get embedded in the tire tread of the sand trucks and other vehicles and it will then get transported and deposited onto Willow Glen Road. From there it will get blown around just from the wind created by moving vehicles and on windy days the contamination will be much worse. With Santa Ana winds the pollution will be spread for miles around. The silica dust contamination from at least 88 sand trucks plus 18 vendor trucks plus sand mine employee vehicles each week day for 10 to 12 years is a major health threat.

Per OSHA 3176 *“Do not eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics in areas where crystalline silica dust is present. Wash your hands and face outside of dusty areas before performing any of these activities.”*

- *Remember: If it's silica, it's not just dust.”*

` - greenhouse gas emissions

- negative impact on the Sweetwater Riverbed

- wildlife – disruption to and loss of sensitive habitat areas

- safety – Willow Glen Dr. is a two lane road and it is already heavily trafficked. Adding 176 more large mining trucks each day plus 18 vendor trucks plus sand mine employee vehicles every week day will cause serious traffic and safety issues. The accident rate will increase. Lives will be lost.

there are many cyclists and walkers and joggers who enjoy the scenic road. Their safety will be imperiled.

- Road damage – the volume of daily truck trips, the weight of the sand filled trucks, plus the other daily site generated trucks and vehicles will quickly cause road deterioration. Broken asphalt/concrete, chuck holes and/or road repairs will cause more traffic congestion and more safety issues. The sand trucks and the 36 other vendor trucks will add 55,120 more trucks using Willow Glen road in just one year. That's more than one-half of a million trucks over 10 years. Then factor in the weight of the sand and the damage to the road over 10 years becomes unimaginable.

Willow Glen Dr. is designated a County Scenic Road. There is nothing scenic about a sand

mine, excavators, processing plants, conveyor lines, sand trucks, storage containers or any other feature of a sand mine.

- visual pollution

- home values – Cottonwood Golf Course opened in 1959. In 1978 Cuyamaca College was built and in the following years many large and beautiful homes were built around and right up to the golf course. Homes, schools, retirement facilities, churches, restaurants, shopping facilities, parks, recreation and entertainment venues are all part of this community and are in concert with the Valle de Oro Community Planning Area and the San Diego County General Plan. The sand mine will have a drastic negative impact on home values, health and safety, natural resources, air quality, noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and biological resources all of which will significantly diminish the quality of life for all area residents. The desirability of the neighborhood and the surrounding community will decline resulting in the ultimate deterioration of neighborhood and community. The very concept of turning this 250 acre site into a sand mine is beyond sound judgement.

The sand mine is uncharacteristic, and incompatible with adjacent uses, with the Valle de Oro Community Planning Area and the San Diego County General Plan.

Please recognize that the Cottonwood Sand Mine will bring no enhancement to the community, but is instead riddled with negatives that will result in the destruction of the quality of life and the pride and character of community.

Please reject the Cottonwood Sand Mine development request.

Respectfully.

Marlene Shannon

1303 Bernita Rd., El Cajon, CA 92020

619 442-2103

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