





**From:** Bonnie Cajka  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Sand mine  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 4:43:37 PM

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Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

PLEASE help us 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.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Cajka

Jamacha Elementary School Teacher

Community Member

Sent from my iPhone



# 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  
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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 OPPOSE THE COTTONWOOD SAND MINE DUE TO HEALTH  
CONCERNS CAUSED BY DIRT, DUST, & NOISE IN THIS 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

  
11-21-2019  
Commenter Signature, Date

Email: [robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

JUAN PABLO CALVEZAN  
Print Name

FAX: (858) 694-2555

1103 CONCORD ST  
Address

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

SAN DIEGO, CA, 92106  
City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Jennie Logan  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 2:39:31 PM

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*Teri Callanan*  
*1885 Donahue Dr. RSD, CA 92019*  
[terical@cox.net](mailto:terical@cox.net)

Robert Hingtgen  
Re: Proposal of Cottonwood Sand Mine

November 19, 2019

Dr. Mr. Hingtgen,

My family has lived in the Rancho San Diego- Cottonwood area for over 35 years. During this time we have seen and incurred much development, some needed other development not so much. We have had the pleasure of playing golf at Cottonwood Golf Club and have enjoyed all the course has had to offer over the years. We were sad to see when half of the course was closed.

With the growing community, I assumed there would be new development, but never would I have imagined that a sand mining operation would be presented to your board.

Considering the added traffic to an already congested area, damage to our roadways, not to mention the long lasting damage it will have on the land; surrounding habitat and deteriorating air quality. I can only imagine the irreplaceable loss of property value to all the homes in the Rancho San Diego-Cottonwood Community.

In closing, I'm asking no I solicit you to please consider my, our community of Rancho San Diego-Cottonwood and reject the proposal of the sand mining project.

Sincerely,

Teri Callanan

**From:** Jim Caputo  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to and Comments Regarding the EIR for the Proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine Project  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 2:56:21 PM

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

Mr. Hingtgen,

I write to state my strong opposition to the Sand Mine Project to be located on the Cottonwood Golf Course property. In opposition, it is more than sufficient to simply state that locating an industrial sand mining operation in the middle of a zoned residential neighborhood; within feet of homes, an elementary school and care facilities; welcomes significant environmental degradation and undoes any sense of reasonable or justifiable planning or development. But there is more – much more.

- The Sand Mine Project is grossly inconsistent with the San Diego General Plan Valle De Oro Community Plan, and the Rancho San Diego Specific Plan. These plans reflect the thoughtful and painstaking work of your Department as well as numerous other agencies, experts and citizen contributors. These plans are intended to be the handbook for appropriate development. They should not be cast aside because a multimillionaire with an established track record of disregarding planning mandates and the law has a self-serving plan to make yet more money.
- The cumulative impact to traffic, safety and emergency evacuation routes must be considered; in addition to proposed Sand Mine, the Enclave at Ivanhoe Ranch is planning 119 residences adjacent to the site. Already congested use of Jamul Drive, Steele Canyon Road, and Willow Glen Road cannot handle additional heavy use. Additional projects that should be considered in a cumulative study include Otay Village in Jamul (1300 residences between Jamul and Chula Vista) and Skyline Church Retirement Housing on Jamacha Road. Both projects will add significant traffic on Campo Road/Highway 94 and Jamacha Road/Highway 94. Many of the intersections at the above-referenced rates are already graded F. Is a lower grade even possible? But that was certainly will be the result of the Sand Mine Project.
- The character of the adjacent Rancho San Diego area has been developed under the controlling development plans and consists of residential, recreational, civic and open space uses. The Rancho San Diego Specific Plan identifies the Cottonwood Golf Course as a buffer area and providing a larger setback to sensitive habitat areas. The Sand Mine will destroy the sensitive habitat areas already established in this area.
- The guidelines for a proposed permitted major use require that the location, size, design and operating characteristics be compatible with adjacent uses – here, residences and nearby buildings. The proposed Sand Mine will have an unavoidably harmful effect on Rancho San Diego's desirable neighborhood character, the generation of traffic, the capacity and physical character of surrounding streets, and the suitability of the site for the type and intensity of use or development that is proposed.

- The proposed Sand Mine area contains the jurisdictional waters of the State of California and the United States, including protected wetlands, requiring approval from State and Federal resource agencies. Several federally endangered and threatened species have been identified on or in the vicinity of the proposed project site, which is adjacent to the National Wildlife Refuge. The site is also within the South County and Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segments of the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) designated preserve areas.
- Ironically, one of the roads that will be most directly impacted is Willow Glen Drive, a road designated as a County Scenic Road. Impacts to travelers using this road, persons walking, bicyclists, and residences along the ridges that view this road must be considered.
- The proposed Sand Mine would directly impact the immediate environment, significantly impacting air quality, noise levels, and hydrogeologic conditions and thereby potentially harming residents, plant and animal species, water and the land. Such compelling harm to people and our environment must take priority over private financial gain.
- The Sweetwater Authority documented that the Sand Mine proposes a variety of activities that could significantly pollute the Sweetwater Reservoir. This source of drinking water must be protected.
- Numerous archaeological resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the proposed Sand Mine site. Significant impact to tribal cultural resources is likely.
- Not surprisingly, sensitive populations in this residential area include schools, resident care facilities, and facilities and residences that house individuals with health conditions (children & elderly). These populations will be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. The permit application identified residences and nearby Jamacha Elementary school as at-risk; however, they must also study impact to Adeona Healthcare, an 80-bed residential treatment facility for adolescents that is adjacent to the Sand Mine site on Steele Canyon Road, the YMCA within a quarter mile of the property site, and La Vida Real, a senior living residence, which is located about a half mile from the site.
- The Sand Mine permit application underrepresents potentially impacted agency interests. Those agencies, including those identified in the Scoping Letter for this project, should be contacted and included in the all Environmental Impact Report notification and approval process. Such agencies include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Transportation, California State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water, California Department of Water Resources – Division of Safety of Dams, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Southern California Area Office, San Diego County Water Authority – Water Resources Department, Sweetwater Authority, Otay Water District, San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, Grossmont Union High School District, Cajon Valley Union School District, Jamul-Dulzura Union School District, and local Native American Tribes.

No matter how much the applicants attempt to dress up this project, the environmental harm and impact it will visit on this community are obvious and transparent. The great philosopher Bob Dylan once said, "You don't need a weatherman to tell you which way the wind is blowing." In this matter, it similarly seems you don't need an Environmental Impact Report to tell you this project is a horribly bad idea. But I'm sure your detailed and thorough work will confirm that point. I thank you for entertaining these comments.

Best regards,  
James A. Caputo  
Steele Canyon Estates  
Jamul, CA 91935

**From:** keithcarroll@aol.com  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose the Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 3:50:01 PM

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I am a resident of Rancho San Diego at the top of Steele Canyon Road overlooking the valley. It has come to my attention that the owners of Cottonwood Golf and the sand miners down the road from them are trying to push through a sand mine on the west portion of Cottonwood Golf Course. Please oppose this project as it should never be allowed. You would be allowing a sand mine in the center of a residential community. Increased dangerous trucking traffic and pollution would be guaranteed to come into this residential area. This is not a commercial area. As it is now there are hundreds of daily trips of speeding trucks coming through Willow Glen from the Robertson's Quarry down the street.

The owners who bought Cottonwood knew they what the land was zoned for when they bought it, and I am sure it was not a Sand Mine. So the right to do what they want with their land should not be an issue here. I would be less hesitant to say let it be rezoned to residential and build homes on the land, but a Sand Mine! That is ridiculous.

I have a nice home with a view, it would be like me wanting to turn into into a concert venue or a Wine Tasting Business. It is not zoned for that and I would not expect to be allowed to do so. I would expect the same would apply for turning a golf course into a Sand Mine.

Thank you and please put a stop to this idea.

Keith Carroll  
3131 Via Caliente Del Sol  
Jamul, Ca 91935

**From:** Steve Cassotta  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 1:57:19 PM

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Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to voice my concern and objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine Project in Rancho San Diego. Although I understand the need for sand, this is a completely inappropriate location for an industrial mining operation. Placing this operation in the middle of a residential community is not compliant with San Diego County General Plan, Valle De Oro Community Plan, and Rancho San Diego Specific Plan. These plans were developed specifically to maintain a consistency of land use so that operations such as this could not come in and endanger the community.

The proposed 176 truck trips per day would alone threaten the safety of the roads and change the nature of the area for local residents and supporting businesses. There are many schools and sensitive populations extremely close to the proposed operations. No matter how great the dust control measures, the air quality will be negatively effected. Once the soil crust is disturbed the wind will pick up the dust and can carry it surprising distances. Children starting school at the beginning of the sand mine will be exposed to silica dust and dangerous industrial truck traffic their entire childhood.

Cumulative development must also be considered. The Adara project in Jamul will bring in an additional 1,119 homes with residential traffic coming through the area to get to the I-94 freeway. The Enclave at Ivanhoe Ranch is planning 119 residences adjacent to the site. Already congested use of Jamul Drive, Steele Canyon Road, Willow Glen Road and roads feeding the area cannot handle the additional heavy use .

The proposed use of conveyors to transport the material on site will create a racket that will echo throughout the entire area. The sand mine developer proposed conveyors as a cleaner option than on-site truck traffic, but it seems impractical and limited in use. I imagine 10 yard dump trucks will still be travelling throughout the site and on Willow Glen Road adding to the 176 truck trips per day.

These a just a few of the negative impacts an industrial mining operation will have on the community. In addition to health and safety concerns, violating community plans and major use permit findings, it will damage the character of the area, have negative environmental impacts (biological and hydrogeological), add turbidity and erosion into the Sweetwater River drinking water and turn an existing residential area into one where no one would want to live.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Cassotta  
Rancho San Diego resident





# 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

Please to EIR on Valley fever in dust/disturbed  
soil in people, cats, dogs, horses  
Coccidiomycosis endemic in area.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

11-4-19 Ellen M Caff DM

Commenter Signature, Date

Ellen M. Caff DM

Print Name

3496 Heatherwood Dr

Address

El Cajon CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Ellen Catt  
**To:** [wendy@urbanpreservation.com](mailto:wendy@urbanpreservation.com); [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen, Robert J); [dianne.jacobs@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dianne.jacobs@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** Against Cottonwood Sand mine  
**Date:** Friday, November 01, 2019 4:42:21 PM

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Dear community leaders,

We want to go on the record as adamantly against Sand mining at Cottonwood golf course in Rancho San Diego. The reasons why are numerous, the negative environmental disruption would be immense, the noise, the dust, the traffic, the pure visual ugliness, the health risk associated with the above including coccidiomycosis, a deadly disease for both people and our pets, asthma and allergies, decreased property values, as well as non-adherence to the master community plan. This proposal is clearly inappropriate for a highly populated area that includes an elementary school, high density housing, shopping centers and senior living facilities. Since we live on directly on the golf course on Heatherwood Dr. we would be severely impacted in both quality of life and the value of our property. The sand mine would be directly along our back yard property line which is not an acceptable use for this land for us or the community as a whole.

As city leaders, please represent our community with alternative choices for this land that will enhance Rancho San Diego rather than line the pockets of greedy, uncaring men.

Sincerely,  
Larry and Ellen Catt  
3496 Heatherwood Dr  
Rancho San Diego

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

**From:** Larry Catt  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 6:10:08 AM

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Dear Robert,

Larry Catt here sharing my thoughts. We live on Heatherwood Drive and would have the closest proximity to the mining. You have heard all the complaints, all the objections, all the environmental issues. Now, it simply is a common sense decision. It's not right for an area like Cottonwood. Furthermore, the owner of Cottonwood Golf Course has demonstrated over, and over, and over that he and his "people" cannot be trusted. They are selfish, money motivated group of people with total disregard to the environment and its surroundings.

I hope that this has become obvious to you and you can make your decisions appropriately to benefit the surrounding community and oppose this mining request.

Thank you for your time,

Larry and Ellen Catt  
3496 Heatherwood, El Cajon, Ca. 92019

**From:** Cherie Martinez  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine Project  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 3:45:08 PM

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Me. Hingtgen,

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. Our children attended these schools and now our grandchildren 2 of these schools.

We live here for the schools, the sense of neighborhood and the community itself. Our Adult children are now raising their children in this community. The air quality matters greatly to us, the trucks traveling in and out throughout the day matter greatly to us. Many lives will be harmed and negatively changed.

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. I urge you to vote NO on this project and I stand opposed to this project, which will destroy the quality of life for many, with the Martinez Family.

Sincerely,  
Cherie Christian-Martinez  
11825 Via Granero  
El Cajon, Ca 92019  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** Terry Ciaramitaro  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 12:35:20 PM

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To Whom It May Concern.

I own a home at 3036 Cottonwood View Drive. I have lived in my home for 23 years. I am in awe that you are even CONSIDERING approving a sand mine in the middle of a established neighborhood. Not only the health hazard it will cause and the pollutions into the air but what it will do to the value of our homes that we worked very hard in obtaining financially and maintaining.

I am a 74 year old widow who plans to spend my remaining years in my home and not to have to be subjected to the noise, pollution, and eyesore of a sand mine in my backyard!

This home is part of my financial plan to live my remaining years comfortably.

Who is going to pay me for the devaluation of my home. I paid a premium for this lot and now I won't be able to even sell it for what I paid for it it 23 years ago!

How dare you to even consider this! What are thinking! Would you do this to your mother or grandmother! I think not!

Mrs. A.M. Ciaramitaro

Sent from my iPad

Date: 11/17/19  
From: Mary P. Collura  
13362 Devon Dr. Jamul, CA 91935  
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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,

*Mary P. Collura*

Date: 11/12/19  
From: John P. Collura & Natasha L. Collura  
2810 Tucker Trail, Jamul, CA 91935  
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov))  
San Diego County Planning and Development Services  
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

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Sincerely,

 & Natasha Collura

Date: 11/19/19  
From: John R. Collura  
13362 Devon Dr. Jamul, CA 91935  
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov))  
San Diego County Planning and Development Services  
Subject: Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

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Sincerely,



**From:** bonnie  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 11:26:26 AM

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Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

We are writing regarding our very serious concerns regarding the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. We have lived in Rancho San Diego for 35 years, the last 25 years in our home in the Cottonwood development. Our house sits up on the ridge overlooking the Cottonwood golf course. We have seen the area grow and develop into an established, thriving, residential community that includes homes, schools (which includes several elementary schools, middle school, high school and Cuyamaca Community College), several resident care facilities for both seniors and adolescents, a library, a National Wildlife Refuge and several shopping centers. A sand mine would be detrimental to every component of our community and is NOT consistent with the San Diego County General Plan, Valle de Oro Community Plan or Rancho San Diego Specific Plan. The Rancho San Diego Specific Plan identifies the Cottonwood Golf Course serving as a buffer area to sensitive habitat areas.

Some of our concerns regarding the sand mine include

**Traffic Safety Hazard** I drive daily from the Hillsdale/Willow Glen intersection towards Jamacha. Traffic is already congested. The drive from this intersection to the Jamacha/ Via Mercado intersection, (the last stop light before the 94 on-ramp), a distance of about 4 miles already often takes me 15 to 20 minutes due to the multiple traffic lights and the congestion of traffic. The proposed 175 round trips of large trucks would significantly impact traffic, wear and tear on roads, traffic safety and damage to car windshields due to gravel from the trucks or tossed from the tread of the trucks tires. It is my understanding that there is already an additional housing development planned (Ivanhoe Ranch Enclave) that will already be significantly affecting road traffic volume and traffic safety. We do not think the roads can handle the additional use by a industrial large trucks.

Recognition should also be given to the fact that Willow Glen Drive is designated as a County Scenic Road and the proposed sand mine would not fit in with that designation.

**Major Use Permits** We can understand that the golf course might not be a viable business with the multiple golf courses in the area, but any change in the land use, permits or even zoning changes should to consistent with the adjacent areas. We are aware on one golf course, that could not get the industrial zoning changes they requested and then developed the golf course into a vineyard and winery, another golf course we are aware of converted the golf course to home development. These type of rezoning WOULD fit in with our community, but open pit excavations, heavy equipment, conveyor belts, diesel fumes, pollutants to include smoke, dust, and particle matter, large trucks, and incredible amount of noise and air pollution does not. Living on the ridge, we are aware of the amphitheater effect that the hills provide from sounds from the valley. Already, amplified traffic noise is constant. I hate to imagine the amplified noise from all the mine machinery as well as trucks (which the owner states might start on the road as early as 4 am) and what a constant negative affect it will have on our quality of life.

**Biological resources** The area contains jurisdictional waters of the State of California and the United States. This includes protected wetlands that are a natural habitat for several federally endangered and threatened species. The area includes a national Wildlife Refuge and is within the county's MSCP designated preserve areas. A sand mine would impact or destroy much of this habitat and have a long-term impact. I know we have our property designated as a natural wildlife habitat due to our desire, effort and ability to provide for wildlife just within our property (appropriate trees, plants, water, etc.). Just within our back yard we have seen ducks, heron, quail, falcons, hawks, vulture, bobcat, coyote, squirrels, rabbits, roadrunners, just to name a few. I would hope that the same respect would be given to the designated preserve areas. I am also concerned about the groundwater impact....possible contamination of groundwater that effects private wells, the Sweetwater Reservoir and disruption of the Sweetwater Riverbed. On a personal note, the Cottonwood Golf course owns a pond right below our property. They could not even maintain that pond and we had to call Vector Control to come out, inspect and start treating the pond regularly for mosquitos. If The current owners did not provide good stewardship of even this small pond, that was not on the golf course but was part of their property, how can we trust they will respect any of the community's concerns regarding our community and environment?

**Visual Resources** As we live up on the ridge, we are very aware of how this would effect the area with the golf course being destroyed and excavated pits, equipment, and dirt replacing what is now an area of trees, grass, riverbed, natural habitat and wildlife. I shudder to think what the homes adjacent to the proposed sand mine would have to be exposed to as well. SANDAG's 2011 San Diego Region Aggregate Supply Study addresses this issue and states that sand mines should not be located on areas that are developed and/or have been conserved for environmental reasons. It should be noted, the sand mine developer EnviroMINE inc was part of the expert panel review that made this determination. This is simply not an appropriate area for a sand mine!

A proposed sand mine would not be compliant with the previous recognition of this area as a developed residential community. The proposed sand mine would create traffic hazards, harm air quality, add significant greenhouse emissions, destroy natural habitat for plants and wildlife, destroy cultural resources, be a visual eyesore and subsequently lower property values and quality of life significantly. Such harm to our community, our health and our environment must take priority over temporary private financial gain. Please take all these points into consideration as you define the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,  
Gene and Bonnie Cordova  
2105 Lime Rock Ct  
El Cajon CA 92019

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** DALE Couch  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine Project  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 9:02:57 AM

---

Mr. Hingtgen,

As a long time resident of Steel Canyon Estates in Jamul, I must object in the strongest possible terms to this sand mine project. My wife and I consider the ill effects of this project totally unacceptable. This is a wonderful residential area that would be devastated by such a project. The negative impact on our local schools, traffic congestion and property values surely should take precedent.

Sincerely,

Dale M. Couch  
3390 Wentworth Way  
Jamul, CA 91935

**From:** shirelgirl  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mining  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 8:38:36 PM

---

Date: 11/13/19

From: Shirel Crawford shirelgirl@cox.net

3437 Scenic Terrace Spring Valley Ca.91978

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcountry.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,  
Shirel Crawford

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



# 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 moved to this area 17 years ago for the open space and the cottonwood golf course. I play this course about once a week. My house is about 100 yards from Cottonwood Golf Club. A SAND "pit" in this location is too close to the homes that surround the golf course. We have "Two" Rock Quarry within 1 mile of my house now. Truck traffic is heavy right now. I have replaced the windshield on my truck from rocks thrown from these heavy trucks. My wife also has chronic asthma. PLEASE check with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service <sup>(Ca.)</sup>, DEPT of Fish + Wildlife, SWEETWATER Authority, about the ENDANGERED SPECIES: the ARROYO toad that lives in the Sweetwater River.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Lawrence H Crouch 11-20-19  
Commenter Signature, Date

LAWRENCE H CROUCH  
Print Name

2738 Willow Glen Dr.  
Address

El Cajon Ca. 92019  
City, State, Zip Code



# County of San Diego

**MARK WARDLAW**  
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
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### NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I have serious concerns about the effects from the proposed sandmining project on mine, as well as others, quality of life. Not only will the local roads be more impacted and dangerous, but also the dangers of the particulates that will be released into the air that we breath. My husband and I moved out to this area, from the city, 17 years ago to have a better and safer quality of life. I already have a compromised health situation with chronic asthma and the proposed sandmining will directly impact my quality of life. Not only will my health be compromised, but so will the values of our properties in this area if this proposed sandmining project is allowed to occur.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Linda J. Crouch 11/19/19  
Commenter Signature, Date

Linda J. Crouch  
Print Name

2738 Willow Glen Dr  
Address

El Cajon, CA 92019  
City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Marge Cushman  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Golf Club sand mine  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2019 9:52:21 AM

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

We are homeowners who have lived for over 25 years in the Singing Hills/Silverado community. Our homes are within 1 mile of the proposed Cottonwood sand mine project. We are vigorously opposed to this project for numerous reasons listed below:

We already have the Robertson mining quarry within a ¼ mile of us which produces a large amount of dust in the air. Their large trucks run constantly 6 days a week and congest Willow Glen and the roadways leading into and out of our communities.

The addition of the this new proposed sand mine would greatly affect our abilities to maintain the quality of our homes values and cause harm to our way of life. The environmental impact on the air we breathe, the safety of our roads especially as we transport our children to and from school and our ability to maintain a clean home especially for those of us with lung or breathing problems.

10 YEARS!! That is a very long time to ask a residential neighborhood to endure.

Thank you for allowing us to give our opinion  
Marge and Paul Cushman  
1552 Corte de las Piedras  
E.C. Calif.



# County of San Diego

**MARK WARDLAW**  
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123  
(858) 694-2982 • 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'm opposing the sand mine strongly, because I have Asthma <sup>which</sup> and I use inhaler <sup>for</sup> the noise will <sup>have</sup> ~~make~~ <sup>Chronic</sup> ~~its~~ <sup>and migraine</sup> affect my headaches as well as my sick wife, we don't want Cottonwood sand mine ever happen <sup>and developed</sup> ~~at this~~ is just make a rich person richer at the cost of the community, and benefiting the rich at cost of the community

No No No 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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Bahjet O. Dabish 11-20-19  
Commenter Signature, Date

BAHJET DABISH  
Print Name

1566 VISTA SIERRA D.  
Address

ELCJON 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

No. NO NO Sand mine please  
 because me and my wife have Allergies from  
 sand plus our house already old we don't  
 want to have any cracks in the wall or fence.  
 Leave the nature alone, this Company's  
 owner he is already Millioner and doesn't  
 care about community health and safety its  
 all about ~~make~~ make more dollars & money plus he  
 doesn't live near the sand mine to feel and suffer  
 what we gonna suffer, in God's name don't let it happen.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Khalil Dabish 11-21-19  
Commenter Signature, Date

KHALIL DABISH  
Print Name

1566 VISTA SIERRA DR  
Address

ESJAN CA, 92019  
City, State, Zip Code



# County of San Diego

**MARK WARDLAW**  
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
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**KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY**  
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## COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001)

### NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

please no sand mine I have 3 kids  
they all have allergie. I'm asking you please  
do not allow to happen.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Sherry Daoud 11-14-19  
Commenter Signature, Date

Sherry Daoud  
Print Name

1542 Vista Sierra Dr.  
Address

El Cajon, CA 92019  
City, State, Zip Code

**From:** James Dean  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** cottonwood sandmine  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 6:15:31 PM

---

Mr. Hingtgen,

My name is Eileen Dean. I am a native east county resident, 37 years in Rancho San Diego. I am also a teacher at Jamacha Elementary School. I have been there for 27 years! Jamacha, as you certainly know, is less than a mile from the proposed sand mine. Please, for the well-being of over 500 students and staff, consider the danger silica dust presents for children ! This is a reckless decision on your part! I don't know if you are a parent but I'm sure this would not be a situation you would let happen without a fight to the end. Drive those roads during school hours, adding the trucks is a nightmare and an accident waiting to happen. PLEASE, do not allow this project to continue!!!

Eileen Dea

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

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**

NAME

Amy DeNoble	
First	Last

12384 Via Hacienda

ADDRESS: Number Street City

El Cajon

CA

92019

State

Zip

Telephone

Email address

aydenoble@gmail.com

When my husband, Alex, and I purchased our first and only home in Rancho San Diego the installation of a Sand Mine was not part of the master plan that we bought into.

We are sorely disappointed that this project is under serious consideration by the County of San Diego.



# 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 attended and spoke at this meeting.

This proposal to create a sand mine in the heart of a master-planned, established, residential neighborhood is ill conceived at best.

Does this developer realize that approximately one hour east of Rancho San Diego is a California desert filled with a lifetime's worth of sand to mine? Check the maps - right along highway 8. Please do not

ruin 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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Amy J. Denoble

Commenter Signature, Date

Amy J. Denoble

Print Name

12384 Via Hacienda

Address

El Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

President, Bella Terra HOA  
(88 homes in the heart of PDS)



# 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 drive over the bridge on Steel Canyon every day and even though the west side has turned brown, the open space is still so beautiful. I am sad that this beautiful residential area is going to be turned into an industrial eye sore. I thought there were laws which specifically separated residential and industrial areas? The noise and the silicon dust will be a health hazard and very disruptive to traffic. I plead you would put yourself in our shoes and realize this is a mistake and you too wouldn't want this for your family!

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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

 11/18/2019

Commenter Signature, Date

Suzanne Duke

Print Name

3279 Cottonwood Springs Lane

Address

Jamul CA 91935

City, State, Zip Code

two blocks from site!

**From:** Camilo Dunoyer  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand-mining Project  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 9:32:06 PM

---

Date: 11/22/2019

From: [Camilodunoyer@yahoo.com](mailto:Camilodunoyer@yahoo.com)

14118 Lyons Valley Road

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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, Camilo Dunoyer

**From:** Tami Eaton  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J; wendy@urbanapreservation.com](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J@wendy@urbanapreservation.com)  
**Subject:** Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 12:54:25 PM

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing to voice my objections to the proposed Cottonwood San Mine in Rancho San Diego. As a long term resident of Rancho San Diego, and having seen the original master plan for the community when it was a planned development prior to the Home and Savings Loan collapse. A sand mining operation was definitely not within the plan of the development of Rancho San Diego. Beyond the original plan, let's cover the points that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should demonstrate why this plan is inadvisable within this community. These issue cannot be adequately mitigated in ways companies usually try to mitigate negative impacts.

- Riparian Rights and damage - this type of operation will result in contamination and use of groundwater that will effective immediate neighbors that rely on well water, as well as effect all those users that rely on the Sweetwater River as a watershed into the Sweetwater Reservoir for potable water.
- Traffic & Vehicles - this type of operation rely on large trucks to carry the sand that is mind to the facilities that purchase, process and use the sand. The roads and streets in the are are intended for residential traffic, many are only two lanes and have not been built to withstand the weight and frequency of use. This will result in safety problems as well as costs in the long run for maintenance and repavement.
- Byproducts of production - the process of sand mining produces silica dust which will put at risk residents in the area. This are is surrounded by facilities, schools and residents that will be a risk for higher incidence of cancer, COPD and other health issues.
- Loss of Property Value
- Impacts on Environment and Wildlife - this project will negatively impact a number of endangered species and eliminate and important green space within the Sweetwater River watershed.

All of these items must be considered and should result in a clear determination that the negative impacts should be extensive in the report. I will be waiting for a draft copy of the EIR, and review it to confirm that all of these items are included in the document. Which ultimately should result in an understanding that this project is not a sample of good use of the property to the benefit of the community or the county.

Regards,

Tami A. Eaton  
11628 Calle Simpson  
El Cajon, CA 92019

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Janice Echaves <[echavesjanice@icloud.com](mailto:echavesjanice@icloud.com)>

**Date:** November 21, 2019 at 1:57:48 PM PST

**To:** [info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.com](mailto:info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.com)

**Subject:** stoprsdmine

Please re-think this project think of all the family members and small children that traveled this road my family lives on Willow Glenn there's constantly accidents cars landing in their yards quite often due to accidents around sharp corners coming from the casinos adding more traffic can only cause more harm than good A lot of children have to travel that route to get to their elementary schools please consider the safety of our community thank you Janice ECHAVES

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Suzanne Emery  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** COMMENT: Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 2:07:05 PM

---

Date: Nov. 11, 2019

From: Suzanne H. Emery, [powaywoman@gmail.com](mailto:powaywoman@gmail.com)

16705 Bernardo Oaks Dr., San Diego, 92128

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III

([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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,

It is impossible to find any favor with the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine along Willow Glen Road, which will remove several million tons of rock and sand, replace it with "infill" from somewhere else, all the while removing 185 acre-feet of the local ground water, annually, from on-site wells to provide dust control and slurry material. As if this physical disruption is not egregious, the destruction requested will do irreparable damage to cultural data present in the river channel along whose banks known habitation has continued for the past 10,000 years at least.

I must strongly object to permitting for such an invasive mining project. My objections for physical and cultural reasons are based on my strong revulsion to this developer's tactics, lack of ethics and demeanor as demonstrated near my

Poway home of 48 years where Schlesinger has dragged the community through a messy election and created an eyesore. Neither the homes this developer wanted to put on a defunct Poway golf course, nor the sand on another declining golf course, to be removed from an important river shed, are critical materials, which can't be obtained elsewhere.

Serious review and requirements through the county's many layers of investigation must be used to demonstrate that such environmental degradation is not acceptable due the facts of the matter. Incredibly, requiring full studies of all aspects, also will make it clear that cultural desecration is likely, and must be avoided.

Put another way, within the 12 year scope as presented in this draft, a local child will enter kindergarten and almost finish high school, knowing only 170 trucks driving past her home and school daily, while the river and its shores and riparian habitat where she could have played, are methodically stripped down 20 and 30 feet below their current surface, maybe being replaced with non-native material from elsewhere in the county and possibly re-planted with "typical" riparian plants.

Because nature is being "monetized," the County's Development Services must use its laws and ordinances to set out strict and broad scope for an Environmental Impact Report, because the impacts on humans, animals, air quality, plants and the future for that little kindergarten girl, are immense.

Sincerely,

Suzanne H. Emery

**From:** Engel2150@cox.net  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine - DO NOT APPROVE  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 11:06:28 AM

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Good Morning,

Please do not approve the Cottonwood Sand Mine project.

It will be a detrimental to our health, property values will decrease, and our community at large.

It will be a major eye sore with significant truck traffic, hard on our roads, dust in the air that people will breath and a distraction from others individual businesses joining in our community.

This is NOT what we expected or desire to happen in our beautiful community of Rancho San Diego.

Please Do Not Approve this Cottonwood Mine Project!

Thank you,

Renee Engel  
Homeowner and Resident at  
2150 Warwood Court, El Cajon, CA  
Since 1996

Sent from my iPhone



# 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 HAVE NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM ANYONE MENTION OF ANY KIND OF MITIGATION OR PERFORMANCE BOND REQUIREMENT FROM THE DEVELOPER AS PART OF THE APPLICATION. WILL ONE BE REQUIRED AND IF SO, HOW MUCH? POTENTIALLY, THE DEVELOPER COULD SIMPLY WALK AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OPERATION AND LEAVE THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO ON THE HOOK FOR REMEDIATION AND SUBSEQUENT LAWSUITS. A VERY LARGE CASH BOND MUST BE REQUIRED UP FRONT BEFORE ANY REZONING OR PERMITS ARE ISSUED.

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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

*Robert Evans 11-5-2019*  
Commenter Signature, Date

*ROBERT EVANS*  
Print Name

*13645 COYOTE VISTA WAY*  
Address

*JANU, CALIF. 91935*  
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 am very concerned citizen and homeowner in the Corte Madera neighborhood in Rancho San Diego. I have lived ~~here~~ here with my wife for 22 years raising our two daughters. I attended the Valle de Oro planning group meeting in November. I listened to environmental present a proposal (with no thoughtful plan to the community) to line their own pockets with money and literally destroy the ~~the~~ acreage of the Cottonwood Golf course. Even more so, it would ~~have~~ have an ill effect on the entire Rancho San Diego community affecting the schools, the elderly, the sick, wildlife, and nature as a whole with increased traffic, noise and pollution. I beg you to reject this proposal. If you spend the time to visit our community and look deeper into the ill effects this plan will cause, I am sure you will realize that the greed of one group is not worth the suffering it will cause to everyone else. Thank you for your consideration on this.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

 11/20/19

Commenter Signature, Date

Everett M. Evleth

Print Name

2402 Sawgrass street

Address

El Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code



# County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW  
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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

### NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I am a homeowner in Rancho San Diego and I am completely against bringing this sand mine into our community. There are many concerns but my main concern is for our children. We have a grade school (Tamacha Elementary) and a juvenile detention home for 80 students located directly in this valley, not to mention Valhalla & Steel Canyon High School, Hillsdale Middle School, Rancho Vista Grande Elementary which are all close by as well. This valley is the heart of Rancho San Diego and this sand mine does not belong here!

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

 11/20/19  
Commenter Signature, Date

Rebecca Evlett  
Print Name

2402 Sawgrass St  
Address

El Cajon Ca 92019  
City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Melissa FLOHR  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Against cottonwood sand mine  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 9:03:59 AM

---

Please stop the proposed Cottonwood Sand mine. This established, idyllic and diverse community is not the appropriate place to do business. In regards to the surrounding neighborhoods, The families and citizens would be put at risk by the traffic impact, and the environmental impact on the lives and homes and surrounding space and water flowing nearby. This sand-mine would be to the detriment of our community. I know it is tempting and lucrative but use the better judgement and higher conscience. People, families live here, schools are nearby.

This is not the proper setting for a sand mine business. We live nearby and are firmly against the sand mine.

Best Regards,  
M Flohr  
Vakas Drive  
92019



# County of San Diego

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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

MY WIFE, CHRIS, AND I ATTENDED THE HILLSDALE SCHOOL  
MEETING AND AGREE WITH ALL THE ~~SPEAKERS~~ SPEAKERS ABOUT  
ALL THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS THE SAND MINE BRINGS.

WE ~~WERE~~ HAVE 27 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH THE  
AGGREGATE TRUCKS USING HILLSDALE ROAD AS A SHORTCUT TO  
THE QUARRY. THE DRIVERS ARE OFTEN RUDE AND SURLY. THE  
ROBERTSONS STAFF PROMISES TO HELP. BUT THEY HAVE A FAST  
MANAGEMENT TURNOVER AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN ON USING  
HILLSDALE ROAD IS ERRATIC. WE CAN ONLY SEE THIS GETTING  
WORSE WHEN THE SAND TRUCKS START UP.

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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

11/5/19

Commenter Signature, Date

GRANT & CHRIS FORAKER

Print Name

1998 CORONA VISTA

Address

EL CAJON CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

**From:** ROBERT FOSTER  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Cc:** [Jacob, Dianne](#)  
**Subject:** cottonwood sand mine  
**Date:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 9:14:16 AM

---

I am writing in opposition to the Cottonwood Sand Mine proposal. I am a resident of the area for over 23 years and have also worked at Jamacha School for many years. A sand mine in this area will have a negative impact on the quality of life of our families as well as the natural wildlife in the area. Increased traffic, noise and pollution will be detrimental to all human and animal life. Gaping holes, bulldozers and gigantic dust balls will replace the natural environment currently there. This area is the wrong place for a sand mine.

Please stop this unacceptable and unhealthy proposal right in the middle of our school and residential community.

Sincerely,

Camille Foster

**From:** ROBERT FOSTER  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** opposition to cottonwood sand mine  
**Date:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 9:18:28 AM

---

I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed sand mine at cottonwood. This idea of placing sand pit in the middle of a beautiful, thriving, residential neighborhood is so wrong on many levels.

As a retired physician, it was my privilege to be a steward of my patients' health for 30 years. I took that responsibility very seriously. But now, I feel that I must speak up to ensure that the health and welfare of my friends and neighbors in the Rancho San Diego community is not harmed irreparably by the placement of a mine so close to hundreds of residences, as well as an elementary school and countless businesses. At a recent meeting, the fear of the mining operation causing aerosolizing of silica particles into the air and then causing possible silicosis in people inhaling this material must not be discounted. Coccidiomycosis (Valley Fever) was also mentioned, and this is a legitimate concern, as the fungal spores that cause this sometimes debilitating lung disease could certainly be churned up into the air by a mining operation.

At an aesthetic level, the idea of placing a mining operation in the middle of a beautiful thriving suburban community boggles the mind. What person in his his right mind would come up with such an outrageous idea, if not for chasing the almighty dollar, and consequences be damned! This very idea is deplorable, and should have been DOA as soon as proposed. The whole nature and feel of this community would be irreparably negatively impacted by this sand mine, despite any assurances of so-called "reclamation" by the applicant.

Also, let's not forget about the ten years of increased traffic and congestion along a very narrow Steele Canyon Rd. and Willow Glen Rd, already clogged with many trucks travelling every day from the Robertson quarry

What a horrible, horrible idea this is! Who would believe that this community would put up with such a abhorrent plan? I ask, no, I **implore**, the public officials of the Valle de Oro Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to strongly oppose this plan and shut down this absurd proposal. We all must stand up and draw a line in the sand (pun intended) to keep this proposal from seeing the light of day.

Respectfully,

Robert Foster

3554 Brittany Court

Jamul, CA 91935

61-987-2688

Dear Robert

My backyard looks out onto the golf course. It is a glorious view—which is an especially good thing since my front yard looks down into the granite mine. Not only is the granite mine unsightly, but also sirens go off every week to warn the community of a coming blast—which shakes the house, the pets, and me to the core. There is noise from the mining throughout the day. Huge clouds of smoke sail up from the mine. Dust is a constant problem, and then, of course, there are the huge trucks carrying the granite off on this little country road that coyotes, rabbits, deer and other wildlife cross regularly—though some don't make it.

The other night at our HOA meeting I spoke with Joel Cloud, who is a member of our HOA and an owner of the mine below. If I understand correctly, he ended up buying some of the homes in our gated community rather than deal with the new residents' complaints. He now rents them. Joel supports the Cottonwood sand mining venture and says he plans to work with the sand mining venture to further grind the sand. This means even more silica dust coming into our residential community. He knows I'm not happy.

When we moved into the community, the real estate agent had said that the granite mine permit would be up in about two or three years, and not to be concerned. Given the beautiful view from the back yard, and the promise of an even better view of the horses grazing from the front just beyond the mine when the mine is gone, three years of not using the front yard seemed tolerable. What the real estate agent didn't say was that once a permit for mining is given, it is routinely renewed. That granite mine will be the view from my front yard until I am in my grave—which may be sooner than otherwise given the dust it kicks up, and I breath. I am using an inhaler now.

At a recent Otay Water District meeting it was revealed that after the initial 10 year permit, the sand mining venture can request a permit for 6 years, and then another for 4 years. So, really we are talking about 20 years of sand mining in the Cottonwood Golf Course. It's a little like the proverbial door to door vacuum salesman who sticks his foot in the door the moment you open it a crack, then throws some dirt on you carpet through the crack, and then sells you a \$600 vacuum to clean it up. Once started, if we don't let them finish, we will have to foot the bill for cleaning it up.

If we ever want them to turn that golf course into a park with trails, we will have to wait at least 20 years—and by then the repeatedly exposed silica may have made it too toxic and too nutrient depleted to use for recreation. At the meeting, their representative kept saying that community concerns about toxicity were unfounded because the venture will not be bringing any foreign materials into the area. Does he think we are stupid? The silica itself is toxic. It is the most carcinogenic type of sand on earth and by digging it up he is exposing all the residents and animals to this carcinogen. And then there are his huge trucks that run on diesel whose tiny particulate matter is far more deadly to people's lungs than the fumes from gasoline. Did Californians just agree to pay a gas tax in order for this guy to destroy our roads and pollute our air with hundreds of trucks carrying tons of silica dust and spewing diesel fumes down our country roads, highways and freeways.

I do not want to be sentenced to breathing the toxins this mine will produce. I do not want a view of the sand mine to be the view from my back yard. I do not want the trees to be clear-cut. I do not want the huge flood lights these places use to pollute my night sky so I can no longer see the stars. I do not want their pools of water inviting mosquitoes and West Nile Virus—and if mosquitoes can breed in the cap of a jar, they can certainly breed in a sand mine that uses water for processing. I also do not want the additional noise disruption and truck traffic that will go along with it. This is also a monetary issue because real estate prices will tank if a sand mine is added to the mix of an already existing granite mine. Who wants to live in the middle of a granite mine AND a sand mine? Those who choose to move won't be able to sell their property.

But more important, I planned to be able to live here so long as I am in this body. Being sandwiched between two mines is not how I planned to live my life. It is not how any of us residents planned to live our lives. Some focus on real estate values, but our lives have value too. We live here—home owners and renters alike. I can understand that if someone got a good deal on the land hoping to turn it into a sand mine and make hundreds of millions in return, they might be determined to acquire those permits. However, they can live elsewhere. We can't all move in order to provide them a lucrative sandbox in which to play at our expense. We would have to live with it—while they make a living off it.

This guy came into our neighborhood and unwisely, inconsiderately, and unconscionably spent 7 million or so dollars with the expectation of being able to impose his will upon the community so he can gouge and scar it in order to make a buck. If we stop him he may lose some money. However, I can point to you 7 homes worth a million dollars right now that won't be worth squat if he is allowed to proceed with his plans. And that's not even mentioning the hundreds of other homes, big and small, that have been lovingly maintained by residents rich and poor, whose lives and property values will be negatively impacted if this man is allowed to continue his venture in our community at our expense.

Think of our schools. Think of our children. There is an elementary school right across from the proposed mine and Valhalla High School students routinely run around the golf course because almost all the other land in the area is very hilly. Do you want these youths deep-breathing silica dust. If you value this guy and his venture more than you value them and their lives, what are you teaching them? What kind of world are we giving them? And then there is a facility for children with challenges and another for elders. If we do not protect our most vulnerable, who are we?

In addition to the current granite mine, there is also an outdoor shooting range on Willow Glen. Not only is the sound of guns going off into the evening hours disturbing (not a good place for veterans with PTSD to live) and necessitate leaving one's windows closed and AC on, but they have set fire to the whole hillside into which they shoot. People live prepared to escape. I am told the outdoor range is needed for law enforcement to practice.

An additional fire hazard comes from the power lines along the hills of Willow Glen. Huge SDG&E trucks cut across my front yard to service them on a regular basis. The real estate agent had asserted that they would only come across once or twice a year. Nonsense. They cut across so many times in the first few months that all the sod that was there when I moved in disappeared and had to be replaced with more durable fire-safe ice plant, and there are still tire tracks. Another hit I take for the team.

I had taken so many hits for the team, I was beginning to wonder where the rest of the team was. Well, when I showed up at one over-flowing meeting at the library, and then another overflowing meeting at the school, and saw many friends, neighbors and others crowding in to sign the petition and enter the hall, I knew I had found my team. (As you know, there was a problem with the gate so fewer people were able to attend the Otay Water District meeting) I just hope we can count on you, the entire Water District Board, County Board of Supervisors and others in government to be part of the team as well. We must fight this. It's not just about real estate values. It's about our values and the value of our lives.

That Cottonwood Golf Course is ready and waiting to be converted into a park right now, without anyone having to destroy it first. We just need to maintain it. If a portion of the property were to be used as a people and pet friendly park. One could walk from the golf course to the wetlands preserve, to the YMCA—and then go to a restaurant, a movie or shop in one of the malls.

If maintaining a large golf course is too costly and water inefficient, there are other neighborhood enhancing purposes the land could be put to. As mentioned, there is a veterinarian, a pet boarding facility and doggie day camp, as well as a horse boarding facility just a walk down Willow Glen. The horses are kept outside and there do not appear to be trails. It would be nice to have horse trails where the golf course now is. These could be for public use, or public/private use with an investor maybe putting in a more deluxe equestrian facility with stables, multiple riding rings and perhaps bleachers for horse shows, dog shows and fairs. I might even get a horse if such a facility were available. The El Cajon Animal Shelter or the San Diego Humane Society could also put a site on the property. If you want to adopt a horse, chicken, goat or other farm animal from the San Diego Humane Society, you currently have to go out to Escondido.

A partner might even give a nod to the old Cottonwood Golf Course by adding a miniature golf course for children and families to enjoy. The kids might want to go for pony rides afterward on the weekend. Public schools or colleges could give credit for riding courses or pet therapy. UC Davis (which has a veterinary cardiac and nephrology facility in Sorrento Valley) could have a large and small animal veterinary extension on the property. A horticulture department or the water-wise gardens could be expanded into this space as well. I used to love having brunch under the big white wedding style tent by the Cottonwood Golf Course pond and listening to the live piano music. Of course, that would also make a perfect place for weddings, outdoor concerts.... Speaking of weddings, there may even be some churches who would like to purchase portions of the land to build a church, child care or elder care facility.

Granted, not everyone wants to play golf—but nobody wants to visit—or even see—a sand mine. A sand mine would be the most environmentally unfriendly, psychologically unfriendly, stress producing and down right unneighborly thing one could do with that land.

This neighborhood has blossomed. People from all over San Diego and all over the world have moved into the incorporated and unincorporated areas of El Cajon. Some have suffered significant trauma in the process and face ongoing challenges now. The community needs a place where people can come together, relax, and get to know one another.

A sand mine offers none of that. It will be a major source of hostility. It will be one big pit of aggravation and anger for all—even for those doing the mining because the community does not want the sand mine here. I believe the community has made that abundantly clear. It would be a shame—I dare say it would be a sin—to gouge and scar this gorgeous, life giving, healing, nurturing, environmentally rich land by turning it into a dead as dust silica sand mine.

Thanks, Robert, for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts and experience. I know many share the same.

Blessings to you and yours,

Devorah Ann Fox, PsyD  
Candidate for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
Fox4AmericaCampaign@gmail.com

**From:** Amy Fox  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine Project Opposition  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 4:48:20 PM

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Dear. Mr. Hingtgen-

We are writing to express our concern over the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in our local neighborhood. We are strongly opposed to having this type of commercial sand mining venue in our rural east county residential area. The increased noise and safety issues of having heavy traffic of semi trucks on small rural streets in a residential area as well as to the negative impact this will have on our home and property value are significant factors the board should consider. This will have an extremely negative impact on our community and standard of living. Part of the reason we chose to live here is the quiet and rural nature of the area. This proposed sand mine is less than two mile from our home and the noise, reduced air quality, safety and traffic concerns have us very upset that such a project is being considered in our quiet residential area. Please note our opposition to this measure, and we urge the county to vote against the Cottonwood Sand Mine development. Please keep our beautiful residential neighborhoods free of the noise, dust, trucks and other environment impacts such a project would impose on our area.

Sincerely,  
Drs. Guy and Amy Fox

**From:** Li Gao  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Re. Cottonwood sand mine project  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 05, 2019 2:58:07 PM

---

I would like to know that in the events like Santa Anna wind, will the proposed sand mine create a "man-made" sand storm devastating the surrounding neighborhoods, covering the whole area with dust, debris, and sand. The project must make at least an impact model and do a simulation to find out, not just the regular environment exam under normal conditions.

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**From:** breakingme@cox.net  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)  
**Cc:** [breakingme@cox.net](mailto:breakingme@cox.net)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 10:20:10 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Theresa Garber  
2116 Greenwick RD. EL Cajon, CA 92019  
**To:** Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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 am writing to voice a very strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. This major, long-term mining operation is within yards of hundreds of adult and child residents. There an elementary school right there and the silica in the sand can cause Cancer. I worked as a Respiratory Therapist and have seen many patients with lung disease as an effect of their environment. This would also include my own father who died as a nonsmoker from an environmental interstitial lung disease. It is a slow painful death.

Willow Glen is already an overcrowded and narrow one lane each way roadway. There is already many injuries and deaths on that road. The sand mine will add numerous large trucks to this winding road. This will make the traffic heavier and take more time to reach our homes. The roads will need to be paved more often and cost the taxpayers more money.

As we understand the sand mine will be operating for at least 12 years. It is 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. The owner states that he wants to reduce dependence on imported sand in our County, yet there is no guarantee or requirement, that the product from this mining will stay in San Diego County.

There will be a proposed open pit excavations of at least 35 feet. It will have a demonstrably adverse impact on the environment and our community. The proposed heavy equipment and nearly 2000 feet of conveyor belts will create an constant noisy environment. Our rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, animals and including farm animals and horses will be disrupted by this noise. This area is adjacent to a National Wildlife Refuge. The dust, smoke, dirt, particulate matter and diesel fumes that will eventually permeate the community. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit that open space surrounding the proposed mine site will significantly suffer. Some species are endangered and will cause an long-term impacts and possible extinction.

Also I am greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. There will be direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment. It is possible, disruption of existing flow patterns will be unavoidable. Some of the residents in this area have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available. This project negatively impacts the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting water to many communities. There is the concern of lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer in the end.

I hope that from the County Planning and Development Services' perspective this will be seen for what it is, exceedingly poor use of my environment and the physical well-being and safety of my community. I urge you to look at the concerns of Safety, Traffic, Air/Water/Noise pollution surrounding my home and community. Look at the effect to Plants and Wildlife in our community. It will decrease property values. All these points should be defined in the scope and content of this proposed project's Environmental Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Theresa J. Garber

**From:** sandi gascon  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 7:20:10 AM

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I'm writing to you as a concerned citizen. I'm requesting that you put the safety and health of citizens and animals above the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project. There are so many reasons to stop the exposure of silica dust exposure to school-aged children at nearby schools, along with citizens living in the area. This project will deposit silica dust onto the surrounding streets. These silica particles will pollute air and ground sites. The water in local wells, water used in irrigation and drinking water face contamination. The American Lung Association identifies silica dust as a carcinogen.

I'm strongly asking you to take all this into consideration.

Respectfully,

Sandra L. Gascon

Sent from [Outlook](#)

**From:** martin George  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood sand mine  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 5:05:27 PM

---

Dear Robert I would like the following comments taken into consideration during the investigation of this project :- has there been a study done on the impact to local businesses and the attract ability of this area for new business while this project is in operation. I believe the noise, dust and traffic pollution would be detrimental to existing business and our ability to attract new business to the area.

I have significant concern over the silica dust pollution that will be released into the air while this mine is in operation. This is a known carcinogen and it seems reckless to allow this activity to take place in a residential area.

Increase in traffic will be significant due to truck movement and roads are not presently capable for such an increase in use. In addition damage will be likely due to the heavy industrial equipment and trucks traveling on residential streets.

I urge that this project be rejected due due to the residential neighborhood surrounding the site and the disruption and health risks such a project would create.

**Martin George**

**Regional Director Sales America's**

Chromalloy

[7007 Consolidated Way](#)

[San Diego, CA 92121](#)

[USA](#)

T [+1 858 877 2816](#)

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F [+1 858 877 2898](#)

[mgeorge@chromalloy.com](mailto:mgeorge@chromalloy.com)

<http://www.chromalloy.com>

**From:** Robyn Gilmore  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Rancho San Diego Sand Mine  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 1:36:55 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am opposed to the proposed sand mine in Rancho San Diego for a number of reasons. I'm a teacher at Jamacha Elementary School, and this sand mine would put too many large vehicles near our school which will increase traffic and affect public safety. Also, there are health risks associated with mining for sand so close to homes and an elementary school.

Please do not allow this proposed sand mine to begin operations in Rancho San Diego.

Robyn Gilmore  
Jamacha Elementary

**From:** Charles Girardot  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Cc:** [Steven, Heather](#)  
**Subject:** NOP Comments - Cottonwood Sand Mine Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 05, 2019 9:08:12 PM

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Dear Mr. Robert Hingtgen,

I am writing to provide comments and feedback regarding the proposed sand mine to be developed at the site of the Cottonwood golf course. As a resident of the community living less than 2 miles away from the Cottonwood course, this proposal is a disaster for the residential communities that live here. I strongly oppose the Cottonwood sand mine project. This is not just a case of 'not in my backyard' but a sand mine shouldn't be in anyone's backyard. It just doesn't belong in a residential community!

Within that 2 mile radius of Cottonwood are several residential housing tracks, an elementary school, a youth home, 3 county parks and a wildlife refuge preserve just to name a few. All of these will be directly impacted by the development of a sand mine. As county planners, this is not the way to develop a residential community. While businesses are certainly part of the community, an open pit sand mine in the heart of residential housing, schools and parks just does not fit the type business that should be placed in this area.

There are many factors to consider and I'm sure that the developers will provide all kinds of mitigation to work around these factors. The plain fact is that if you have to mitigate every issue, then it shouldn't be approved. The increase in traffic alone is enough to kill this proposal. The proposal states there will be 176 round trips of heavy duty trucks each day of operation for 10 years. This is all on a two lane road then driving through the business district of Rancho San Diego. Not only is this a detriment to the area we live in, it is a detriment to the entire town to have those large heavy vehicles on a constant basis. It's not a matter of 'if' but 'when' before a fatal accident happens with one of those trucks. There's an elementary school less than ½ mile away from Cottonwood. These children and their parents will be impacted by the truck traffic. Even if they stop truck traffic during the times school starts and lets out, there's lots of activity at the school during daylight hours.

Allowing a sand mine development in our residential neighborhood will most certainly affect the property values of our homes in a negative way. No one wants to live next to a mining operation. The loss in property values will affect home sales in the area as well as future development in the community. If you want to drive people away from the area, the sand mine will accomplish that. Will the county re-assess our property values and lower property taxes due to this sand mine? Is the loss of property tax revenue worth the sand mine? No, it's not.

Without the Environmental Impact Report, we can't say exactly what the impacts will be but there certainly will be several. With all the mining & movement of earth, there is going to be air quality issues, noise issues, traffic issues, wildlife impacts and

quality of life impacts to the community. We live in this area to enjoy the small community, the quiet of the neighborhood, the clean fresh air and be just a little closer to nature. The sand mine will impact all of that. The amount of earth to be moved while mining is going to lower the air quality. The noise of mining and trucks running all day long will be deafening to our ears after living peacefully here for the last 20 years. This is not the proper way to plan for the future of this community.

What value does having a sand mine in the middle of our community provide? It may provide for a few specialized jobs for those living outside our area but at what cost to our community. Putting a sand mine in the heart of residences is not community planning. It is bowing to developers who just want to make easy money at our expense. It would be more appropriate to add more housing and parks to enhance our community rather than a mining operation.

Please do not allow this sand mine project to proceed forward. It's not in our communities best interest!

Thank you  
Charles Girardot  
3135 Turnberry Way  
Jamul, Ca 91935  
619-937-1756  
chipdot@cox.net

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

**From:** Jane Girardot  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#); [Steven, Heather](#)  
**Cc:** [janesnest@cox.net](mailto:janesnest@cox.net)  
**Subject:** NOP Comments - Cottonwood Sand Mine Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, November 08, 2019 10:51:15 AM

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Dear Mr. Robert Hingtgen,

These are my comments about the “sand mine” at the Cottonwood golf course. As a resident of the community near the Cottonwood golf course. I strongly oppose the Cottonwood sand mine project and it just doesn’t belong in a residential community! Next to the Cottonwood golf course are several residential housing tracks including ours. I moved here to get away from noise, air pollution and traffic and have lived here for over 20 years. We moved here because it is quiet here, we only hear the birds, animals and people playing golf and NO TRAFFIC. That would all change with the noise of the sand mine trucks constantly running, and trucks on our streets with our children riding bikes and walking to school every day. Our neighborhood streets are already busy especially with traffic from the schools and nearby shopping. The Sand mine would destroy our wildlife refuge preserve that runs right through Cottonwood course. We have wild turkeys, bob cats, pumas, coyotes, blue herons, and blue herons and countless birds and reptiles that depend on that refuge preserve. Their homes would be destroyed for many years including the natural flow of rain water that flowers through the same area.

As county planners, this is not the way to develop a residential community. While businesses are certainly part of the community, an open pit sand mine in the heart of residential housing, schools and parks just does not fit the type business that should be placed in this area. The increase in traffic alone is enough to kill this proposal, as it states there will be 176 round trips of heavy duty trucks each day of operation for 10 years. It is a detriment to the entire town to have those large heavy vehicles on a constant basis using our small streets with young children present. This is completely unacceptable to Rancho San Diego traffic, businesses, people and wildlife living here.

The sand mine development in our residential neighborhood will affect the property values of our homes. There is no one that wants to live next to a mining operation, and we will not be able to sell our homes at their current value. If you want to drive people away from the area, the sand mine will accomplish that. It’s not in our communities best interest!

Please do not allow this sand mine project to proceed forward. It’s not in our communities best interest!

Thank you,  
Jane Girardot

3135 Turnberry Way  
Jamul, Ca 91935  
619-987-3135

janesnest@cox.net

**From:** S Glasgow  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Scoping Comments Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 7:19:14 PM

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Robert,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the future EIR for the Cottonwood Sand Mine project. After reading the Initial Study (IS), I have the following comments:

Overall, the discussion of excavation and grading and how it relates to the river channel in the IS is confusing. It is unclear exactly where the grading will be. The IS says excavation is proposed to be 40' below the existing surface outside the channel. Exactly how is "the channel" defined/determined? Is this done with respect to the floodway and floodplain? Wetlands delineation? Low flow channel calculations?

The document also states silt fence would be placed on each side of the channel. In places it states there would be a widening of the channel. That slopes would be constructed down to the channel. That the channel would be revegetated. In other areas the document indicates the channel will be avoided.

Basically, it sounds as if a very wide area is being graded flat or relatively flat in this area. Please explain in the EIR how these actions are not considered to be removing an obstacle to growth. Please have the EIR explain how this project in and of itself is not growth inducing for future development of this area.

In the traffic study please address the proposed access point at Muirfield Drive. Please include the accident statistics for Willow Glen in this area. There is a sight distance problem on Willow Glen. The introduction of very large, slow moving trucks will introduce more safety issues on this road. The low number of trips in/out of the construction area is not likely to trigger the need for signalization. This is likely to lead to more accidents in this area.

The IS indicates the truck trips won't occur during peak hours. However, they will be occurring during school hours - schools adjacent to and near the project boundary. Please have the EIR correctly characterize this.

In several places the IS refers to the project as "temporary". I encourage you to be a bit more respectful with terminology such as this. It is the anticipated life of the project. To describe as temporary for 10-12 years almost seems to be gloating.

The discussion of water usage - including the need for only one water truck for dust control - please address how this was calculated.

With respect to reclamation - please address the specifics. Will reclamation occur in each area after each area is excavated and final grade established? Or will the County allow the entire area to be mined before any reclamation occurs? Why is there up to a 2 year lade before reclamation occurs?

Please address the specifics of the "chokepoint" in the river and how it will be remedied. Please thoroughly address the upstream and downstream impacts of this action - and how you determined the area of the of impact.

It appears as if there is a RPO for cultural and biological resources. Please ensure the cultural resources studies include a history of this area - including the historic significance of the structures, archeological resources, biological resources in the area, the golf course, its architects, and other characteristics and how these could warrant consideration of this area as a cultural/historical landscape.

Please explain how coordination will occur with Federal agencies to ensure permitting requirements, and NEPA for Federal agency actions, will be accomplished. Please address which State agencies will use the EIR for their permitting and approval actions.

In the EIR, please include a thorough discussion of past, present, and future projects and their impacts.

Please address aerially deposited lead and commit to soil test for this.

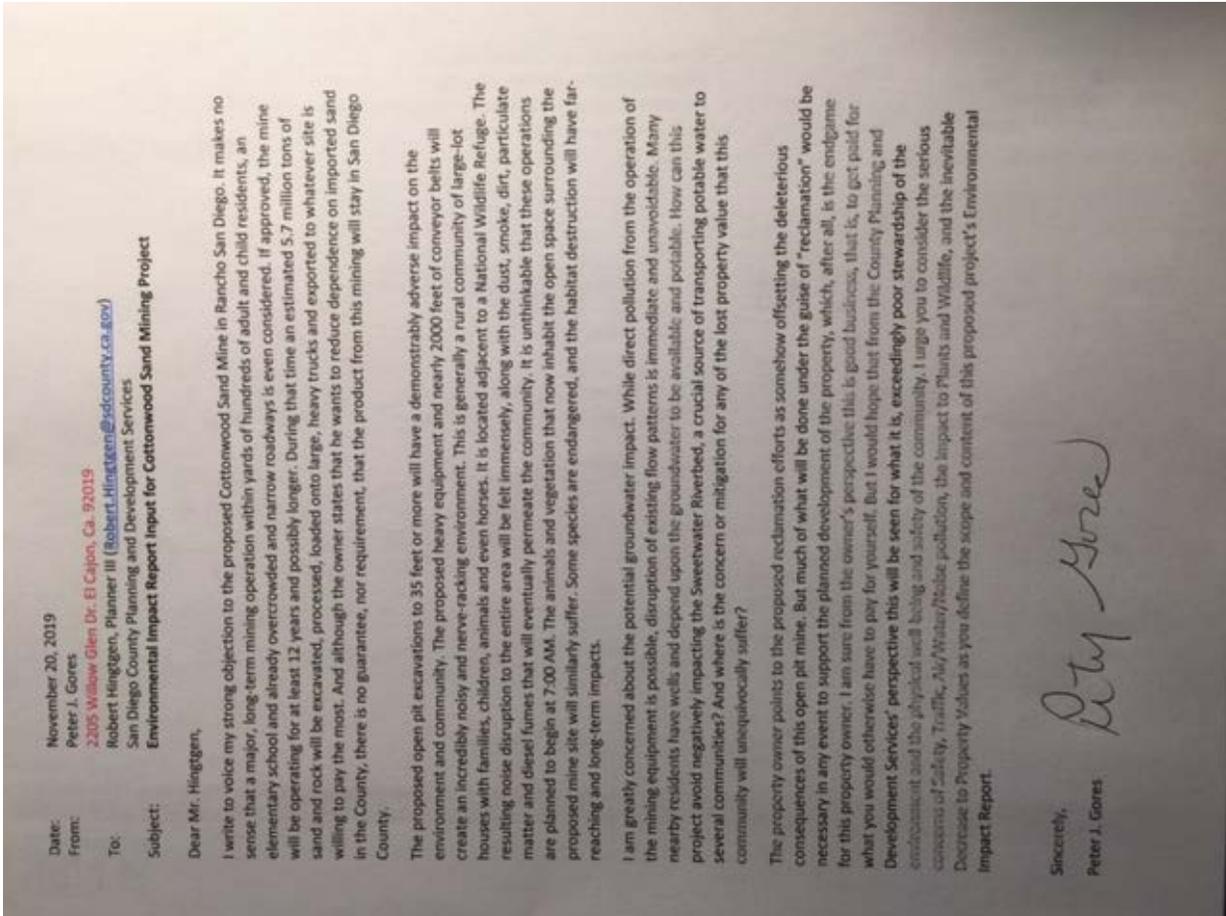
Please include a full range of alternatives, including no project, and the respective impacts of each.

Thanks.

Susanne Glasgow

**From:** Pete Gores  
**To:** [Hingten, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12:41:19 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

**From:** roxana gores  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** San Diego County Planning and Development Services  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:44:00 PM

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November 21, 2019

Roxana J. Gores  
2205 & 2171 Willow Glen Dr. El Cajon, Ca. 92019

To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner 111  
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I'm writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. My husband and I moved into our homes on Willow Glen Dr. in 1976. During our time living on Willow Glen Dr. we have experienced 2 sand mines. One behind my home that was the Gene Taylor Sand mine and one on Dehesa Rd. the Sloan Canyon Sand Mine. Neither one was brought back to its original condition after completion. During the operations of these sand mines we experienced endless dust, endless truck traffic, diesel fumes, noise and destruction of several large mature oak trees and loss of habitat. When they were in operation and we received heavy rains we were forced to protect our properties from washing away do to the mining in the river bottom. We have also been living and dealing with Hester's Granite pit, AKA East County Materials, AKA ECM Batch plant and Robertson Ready Mix 96 all sharing the same property on 2094 Willow Glen Dr. El Cajon. The community and I have been dealing with this nuisance pit for way to long. We don't need another sand plant in the middle of a residential neighborhood. When we moved here Hester's Granite Pit was a mom and pop operation with not much activity. Then it was sold to the Cloud family. The Cloud family lied to all their neighbors. They told all of us they were going to move their family onto the property and they only planned to stay working for 15 years. Here we are 30 plus years later! We're still living with extreme dust, endless noise and destruction of our homes from the endless blasting, health concerns and health issues. Robertson's has trucks returning as late as 8pm 6 days a week. When they open the plant early in the morning you get diesel fumes coming over our homes. You can't go outside to enjoy your own yard. Willow Glen Dr. is one of the main roads to Sycuan Casino. The traffic generated from Sycuan Casino with its golf course, new gas station and new hotel has generated massive amounts of traffic. The posted speed limit is 45mph but the speed is usually 55 plus. Motor vehicle accidents are happening all the time on Willow Glen Dr. what is it going to be like if we add 176 semi truck and trailer round trips on Willow Glen Dr.? It will be a disaster!

I'm also greatly concerned about the potential groundwater impact. Direct pollution from the operation of the mining equipment and disruption of existing flow patterns is immediate and unavoidable. A lot of us have wells. My home is dependent on the groundwater to be available and potable. I don't have city water. This project will negatively impact the Sweetwater Riverbed, a crucial source of transporting potable water to several communities. What kind of safe guards will

there be for the aquifer? Where is the concern or mitigation for any of the lost property value that this community will unequivocally suffer? This whole proposed project is just a horrible idea at our expense.

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 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 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. We have a large variety of wildlife living in the river bottom: deer, bobcats, wild turkey, mountain lions, coyotes, raccoons, wild ducks and a large variety of birds to name just a few. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

In the past Kumeyaay Native Americans lived and fished by the Sweetwater River. Precious artifacts have been found on the Cottonwood golf Course. Any mining allowed in the 214 acres would desecrate any of the remaining artifacts. Another one of my concerns is the involvement with the Cloud Family in the proposed sand mining project. It would be very convenient for them to truck transport sand from Cottonwood Golf Course to Hester's Granite Pit/ Robertson's Ready Mix to reopen their Batch (concrete) plant. This will add even more traffic to Willow Glen Dr. with additional cement trucks and cement powder train trucks. Willow Glen Dr. from Jamacha Road to Silverado Gated Community is in disrepair and hasn't been repaved in years. I can't imagine what Willow Glen Dr. would be like with an extra 88 semi truck and trailer loads traveling on it each day for the next 10 plus years.

The volume /depth of the proposed sand mine is 20 to 40 feet deep. It was stated by Enviromine Inc. that they would only be replacing the areas where the sand was removed with the left over tailings. No outside material would be replacing the extracted sand. Tailings are called mine dumps. Tailing are the byproducts left over from mining. They are extracting 4.8 million cubic yards of material. With a small amount of tailings that's going to leave one gigantic ugly hole.

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,  
Roxana Gores





# County of San Diego

**MARK WARDLAW**  
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123  
(858) 694-2862 • 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

please no sand mine	
We are against it.	
No No No	

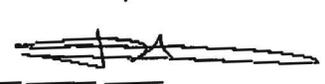
**Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Victoria Gorges 

Commenter Signature, Date

Victoria Gorges

Print Name

514 Jamarher rd J15

Address

Elcagon CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

Date: Nov. 22, 2019  
From: Don Goss [goosebounce@cox.net](mailto:goosebounce@cox.net)  
3468 Heatherwood Dr. El Cajon, CA. 92019  
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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. Our home is located at 3468 Heatherwood Drive which is directly adjacent to the proposed phase one operation of the mining proposal. As designed, I see no setback being taken into consideration for the mining operation as it relates to our rear property line and also all of the rear property lines of all of the homeowners on the north side of Heatherwood Dr.

The proposed project will create an incredibly noisy and nerve-racking environment. This is generally a rural community of large-lot houses with families, children, grandchildren, 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,



Don Goss

**From:** Kathleen Grisez  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Stop Sand Mine initiative!  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 9:31:53 AM

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to voice my family and neighbor's concern about the impending Sand Mine.

I am a 40 year resident of El Cajon and Jamul. We live directly above the Steele Canyon golf course and will be one of the thousands of families negatively affected by the Sand Mine. This area is zoned residential! That is why we moved here. There is nothing positive about this proposal, only dire consequences if this initiative is allowed to proceed. The following are a few of the disastrous and inevitable affects of this Sand Mine.

1: Health concerns: breathing polluted air filled with silicon, people and children have health conditions like asthma, there is an elementary school located next to the site on Jamul Drive, Older adults with breathing problems, dust created from mining and carried from wind knows no boundaries.

2.: Property values: can only go DOWN, DOWN, DOWN

3: Environmental: Disruption of wildlife, this area is a FLOOD PLAIN, have we not learned anything from Mission Valley flood plain? Before they built the existing bridge on Steele Canyon over the golf course, there was flooding every year! The so called reclamation is a scam, it's not possible, This will disrupt our subterranean water system, dust and carcinogenic particles will travel through the air daily.

4: Traffic congestion: These two lane roads are already congested! These country and residential roads are not equipped to handle huge trucks and equipment necessary to take sand to and from the site. This will cause accidents and delays in taking children to school and daily trips to the store etc.

These are just some of the obvious issues that residents are concerned about. This is NOT the area for a industrial enterprise. This is a well established neighborhood. It will affect neighborhood for miles surrounding the Cottonwood site. That includes 5 schools in the surrounding area, including the 30,000 plus residents.

Please tell the owner of this property to build his sand mine in an appropriate area. I'm positive that he doesn't live in this area nor would he want a sand mine in his back yard.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Grisez

**From:** Sally Ziad  
**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 3:24:08 PM

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Date: 11/22/2019  
11887 via Granero  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III (Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
San Diego County Planning and Development Services

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,  
Sali Gully

**From:** Joe Haisha  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition of the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 9:57:55 AM

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Mr. Hingtgen,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Joe Haisha



# County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW  
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123  
(858) 694-2862 • 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 am strongly against the Cottonwood Sand Mine. How many trucks will it bring into the area? How will it effect the Sweetwater River? How much pollution will it bring into our community? Again, how much pollution will this create? These are just a few questions.

The next thing is how will it effect home prices in the area? My neighbors who once had a view of a golf course, will now have a view of a sand mine. How much is it worth to destroy an entire community?

Thank you.

Michael Halligan

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Michael Halligan 08 Nov 19

Commenter Signature, Date

MICHAEL HALLIGAN

Print Name

11674 Via Rancho San Diego

Address

EL CAJON, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Penelope Hamel  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Cottonwood Sand mine  
**Date:** Saturday, November 09, 2019 10:59:39 PM

---

Mr Hingtgen,

I would not want to miss the opportunity to add to the ranks of those opposing the Cottonwood Sand mine project.

For the reasons of pollution (both from the sand and truck exhausts) and it's impact on our families health; the increased traffic and danger on the roads; unsightly destruction of a neighboring space which would affect nearby home values, and negative impact on the seasonal stream.

I thank you in advance for doing what you can to protect the community's interest, and prevent this project.

Penelope Hamel  
Jamul resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Linda Hanna  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 4:32:03 PM

---

Robert Hingtgen  
County of San Diego  
5510 Overland Ave., Ste. 310  
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

The Cottonwood sand mine proposal is not healthy as it might cause a lot of dust and pollution in the air that can cause asthma or respiratory complications. They will also have a lot trucks on Willow Glen drive which can cause traffic issues or disturbances. It is not good for the environment with dust in the air, its not good for the birds or the animals or residents that have any type respiratory issues or can trigger or cause an issue. For the safety and well being of the people, the community, and the animals that reside in this neighborhood I am against this proposal.

Respectfully,

Devon Hanna  
1819 Monarch Ridge Cir.  
El Cajon, CA 92019



# 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

Sand mine is not healthy as it might  
have a lot of dust in the  
air and can cause asthma or Respiration  
They will have a lot of Trucks on Willow  
Glen. That is not good and I am a voter  
and I pay taxes. I do not want 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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Devon Hanna 11-21-19

Commenter Signature, Date

Devon Hanna

Print Name

Address

1819 Monarch Cir  
El Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code



**From:** Linda Hanna  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine, PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 4:59:39 PM

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Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

We are opposed to the proposed sand mine for several reasons. It will have a negative affect on our air quality. A sand mine here will create excessive dust, dirt and debris and be unhealthy in our community. During our Santa Ana winds, this dust and debris will blow all over our community. Please note the attached pictures I took from our backyard looking east to the existing rock quarry. That is dust being blown from the quarry. What is to prevent dust being blown from the proposed sand mine?

It will negatively affect the wildlife and our water quality.

Willow Glen Road cannot withstand the weight of so many trucks daily, nor is that road designed for the traffic that the mine will create. We already have too many trucks from the quarry, namely the red Robertsons trucks, barreling down our street. A rock from one of their trucks flew into my windshield. Not only dangerous, but it cost me \$500 which Robertsons would not pay. Willow Glen is already busy and marginally unsafe for pedestrians and bikers. It will become even more dangerous, even for cars. This would be unsafe!

A sand mine would change the country feel of our area. It would lower our property values.

For these and many more reasons, I am strongly opposed to the Cottonwood Sand Mine proposal. I hope that the Planning and Development department will listen to the concerns of us in this community and not approve this proposal.

Thank you.

Linda Hanna  
1819 Monarch Ridge Cir  
El Cajon, CA 92019





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DIRECTOR

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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

### NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

we are against the sand mine.  
we purchased at this area due to  
the rocky area.

**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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FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commenter Signature, Date

SALWA HANNA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

1592-Vista Sierra Dr  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

EL-CAJON, CA 92019  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Nancy Harrelson  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 9:00:13 AM

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Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

We would like to strongly express our opposition to the proposed sand mine at the former Cottonwood Golf Course site. You have heard many rationales for the opposition from other community members, but I would like to express a few which are very important to us.

1. Traffic. We live just beyond the Rancho San Diego area in Jamul. In the event of a fire, previous evacuations have shown us that the two-lane road quickly becomes backed up. Out of fear for our and our neighbors' safety, we oppose any additional traffic in the area. Since the casino being built as well as additional housing approved for the back country, traffic has already increased enormously. Please don't allow large trucks to add to the already congested area.
2. Environmental concerns. There is an elementary school, a community park/playground, residences and a youth residential facility essentially right next to the proposed mine. Noise and air pollution are a huge concern. It is not right to bring in an operation such as this in the middle of a residential area and where children live, play and go to school. My husband and I enjoy playing tennis at the park which we would no longer be able to do if the air was contaminated with silica particles.
3. Destruction of the peace and natural beauty of the area. Just because we live in east county and not in wealthier areas doesn't mean we don't have a right to a good quality of life. The company plans to restore the area after 10 years or so. My husband and I are in our 70s. Reconstruction in 10 years does not give us much reassurance or hope.

Sand mines should be in areas away from homes and schools. Please consider favorably the pleas of our community and save us from what would devastate our quality of life.

Sincerely,

Nancy and Michael Harrelson

**From:** Heidi Hauser  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Sand Mine  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10:46:48 AM

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I am writing to express my feelings of disapproval regarding this project. The negative impact it will have on our community will not be resolved for years to come, perhaps never.

I will only give a few examples as I am sure you are aware.

1. Increased traffic: more pollution, safety concerns for children who go to school in the vicinity, erosion of the road (it is already poorly maintained).
2. Decrease in home value:  
More dust and noise, eyesore.
3. Environmental impact: several animals living in the area, water pollution.

Please save our community that we love so dearly.  
Thank you, Heidi Hauser

**From:** Brad Helgason  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition of the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 2:34:55 PM

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

My major concern with the sand mine project regards the negative effect it will have on the health and safety of the RSD community. The riparian rights of surrounding families will be violated due to ground water contamination used in wells, drinking and irrigation.

I'm most concerned about the silica dust excavation byproduct, because I have asthma. The American Lung Association identifies silica dust as a carcinogen. Excavation site studies have revealed that silica dust is deposited onto the surface streets used by sand-filled trucks. EPA analysis consistently confirms dangerous levels of silica particles in the air and ground. School-aged children and toddlers in the aforementioned schools, community members and work place sites will be exposed to silica dust for a minimum of ten years with detrimental results. People with respiratory issues like me will live a more endangered, shortened life. I don't want to have to use my inhaler every day and do breathing treatments. If this goes through we will sell our house and leave Rancho San Diego. This has been our home for 23 years. We love Rancho San Diego.

Also, the traffic and noise will be really bad on Willow Glen and surrounding streets. I don't want to hear daily sandblasting. It will Disturb this quiet community.

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

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

Sincerely,

Jill Helgason

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Ana Hermida  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Sand mine in Rancho San Diego  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2019 4:29:35 PM

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Hi Robert,

I am opposed to the sand mine in our community of Rancho San Diego. For the following reasons:

- Noise & dust Pollution
- Housing value will drop
- More accidents
- Dangerous large trucks in residential area where kids walk to schools
- Streets will deteriorate faster
- More traffic
- Ugly sight

Thank you,  
Ana

--

*Best Regards,*

**Ana Hermida**



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KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dear  
Mr. Hingtgen

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

### NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

I am writing to express my strong concerns to oppose the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. My concern is that location of the proposed site is <sup>already</sup> surrounded by a thriving developed community. I know because I grew up watching it. ~~I~~ I grew up here. I was a Jamacha hawk, a hillsdale huskie, a Valthalla Norseman, and finally a cuyamaca coyote. The traffic here is already out of control. Safety is also an issue. I drive by my old Elementary school every day and <sup>see</sup> kids playing on the grass. When I think back <sup>to that age,</sup> I never imagined myself or past students worrying about the air quality and wondering if it's safe to play.

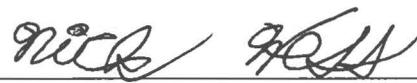
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FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

 11/4/19  
Commenter Signature, Date

Nicholas J. Hess  
Print Name

3233 Greystone Dr  
Address

Jamul, CA, 91935  
City, State, Zip Code

To extent, my other concern is the fate of the sweetwater river that runs through the site. Water in the winter from rain being contaminated and carried down to the sweetwater Reservoir.



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### NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

Dear Mr. Hingtgen -

I am writing to you as a long time resident of El Cajon + Jamul. I went to Valhalla H.S. + my children attended Jamacha Elementary School.

There are so many reasons to vote against this mining project. Our health! The health of the school children, traffic, safety, noise concerns, and our property values!

Please Support our community and do NOT approve this project!!

**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

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FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Juan Hess

Commenter Signature, Date

Susan Hess

Print Name

3233 Breystone Dr

Address

Jamul, CA 91935

City, State, Zip Code



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### NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

Robert

I am against this project + think it is completely unbelievable it is even being considered. A master planned community that is a beautiful place to raise a family + put a Sand Mine in the middle of it ?????? Besides all of the other issues the health concerns alone make this a no brainer to deny. Hopefully all of you will do the "right" thing for a community + not just go for the money.

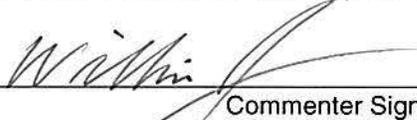
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FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commenter Signature, Date

William J Hess  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

3233 Grey Stone Drive  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Jamul, CA. 91935  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Kat Higginson  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Cottonwood change of use to Mining Operations  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 11:17:41 AM

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Mr. Hingtgen,

I am writing as both a homeowner and a business owner that will be adversely affected by this project should the county approve this change in use.

As a homeowner of 3858 Alta Loma Ct, I am opposed to the Sand Mining project for a number of reasons:

I currently reside at 3858 Alta Loma Ct, Jamul CA and conduct business from that location as well. The property was valued at 1.1 million when it was refinanced in 2015 and I fear that your decision will have a negative impact on my selling it to finance my new home in the next few years; for I am selling a rural community residence in close proximity to shopping, schools, restaurants and golf, not Mining operations. Sir, my husband and I have spent 18 years and a hundred thousand dollars to rehab this home to utilize as a financial vehicle to finance our next home and hopefully allow us to live mortgage free and I believe your decision in this matter will severely impact our plan and the values of many of our neighbors homes and their financial lives in general.

In addition to the Alta Loma residence I share with my husband, I am the owner of 8 acres that is located at 3474 Trinas Way, Jamul CA. The 8 acres on Trinas Way is the site of our future retirement home. We purchased this tract of land almost 15 years ago and for the past several years, my husband and I have invested substantial sums of money improving this site. To date we have already spent \$30,000 on survey's, site and grading plans, thousands for landscaping designs to meet permit requirements and have spent in excess of \$25,000 to bring water to the property via a 600+ foot well . Other expenses associated with improving this property as our future home site include the cost of installing a power pole to provide electricity for our well and to provide electricity to the property as we build, and to date we are 95% complete with architectural blueprints for building our home, cost of those still pending, but approx. \$15,000, and property taxes on this site for the past 15 years have been approximately \$4,000 a year, so this has been no small investment for us sir. Would we have done so with the knowledge that the proposed change of use was possible, most certainly not!

Sir, given the two properties describe above, and the business that I operate from my home, I think it is fair to state that my husband and I have made a substantial financial investment in this area of the county and we did so having taken into consideration the current physical conditions of our community; **a community that DID NOT include an industrial or mining site. It was comprised of beautiful well-planned communities with homes that for the most part held their value in tough economic conditions, 2 golf courses, and a clear, quiet view all the way to the ocean from many of the hillside home sites. It also provided access to our properties via a corridor of Rancho San Diego that presented acceptable traffic conditions whereby we encountered our neighbors, those traveling to the two Golf Courses in our area and the occasional bus headed for the**

**casino in our area of the county; an area of peaceful enjoyment, not manufacturing or mining.**

Sir, I realize that is probably not necessary to remind the planners/decision makers of what it can cost to live in San Diego County, even the more remote locations such as Jamul/Ranch San Diego area of El Cajon, but I would like to remind your committee that in addition to the expense associated with purchasing these two properties and physically maintaining them throughout the year, my husband and I also incur our prorated share of the fees to maintain the two private roads that provide access to both of our properties, and we are often charged with the responsibility for being our own Fire Department in these areas. This means that many of us have incurred the cost to purchase, install and maintain water tanks in order to be ready to fight fires. And in San Diego County, even as remote a location as the Cottonwood area of El Cajon/Jamul might appear on the map, property taxes are still a substantial sum as **Our two properties exceed \$10,000 a year. Does this take a real bite out of our monthly household budget? You bet it does, but we purchased a way of life, not just a house or a home site.**

In addition to the financial aspects described in the paragraphs above, I would like your planners to consider that when I moved to this area of Rancho San Diego/El Cajon/Jamul 19 years ago **I did so in order to live and raise my child in a different environment than the one we had found ourselves while living in Phoenix, Az. And even though my purchase was in a rural area of Phoenix as city and county planners continued to allow the commercial and industrial growth to move in and ultimately takeover, my part of the valley that had once offered a quiet rural setting of wide open spaces, fields of cotton, and intersections that were user friendly and safe for a teen or an elderly person to drive, grew and grew to the point that we found our neighborhoods streets overrun by large commercial semi's and industrial dump style trucks who not only brought the noise and environmental pollution of the industries they served, but the need for larger personal vehicles to feel safe and defensive driving skills well past the norm. Needless to say that while the taxes being paid to the city and county on these businesses in Phoenix were no doubt profitable, as homeowners we lost the quality of life that we had so carefully chosen, paid for and invested in. And that is precisely what my family and neighbors do not want to lose in the area of the Proposed Sand Mine located on what is currently the Cottonwood Golf Course.**

Mr. Hingtgen, and respective Planners, I will admit that while I was not immediately enamored with El Cajon/Jamul, it has been our home for the past 19 years and will hopefully be the site of our forever retirement home. It is where we have invested our hard-earned dollars and our hearts. It is where we have raised our families and helped care for our neighbors. And while I realize growth must take place to benefit the county and its inhabitants as a whole, **my husband and I and our neighbors chose this area for specific reasons and living conditions [including traffic conditions] and we have all paid the taxes on parcels of land [including extra Fire based taxes] that allowed us a different way of life than other parts of the county. For this part of El Cajon/Jamul and the roads leading to the Cottonwood Golf Course and Jamul are for the most part quiet country roads [as I**

believe they are legally zoned] that allow drivers and passengers to enjoy an area of the county that allows you to leave behind the noise and congestion and cross a small bridge style road over a golf course on your way to the Elementary School, High School or Veggie stand on old 94.

Homeowners in this area who build homes and lives in this area do so as it provides a measure of comfort in as much that our children can learn to drive in an atmosphere that feels a great deal safer than other areas in the county. And while our shopping and entertainment options are a great deal less in Rancho San Diego area, our roads leading in and out of Rancho San Diego are not congested with semi's and industrial type vehicles; and our teenage children can drive to and from Valhalla High School in a relatively safe traffic environment. This is why we sink our life savings into homes in this area and why we continue to pay taxes that are equal to or higher than many parts of the county. And if you approve this project, you will remove one of the very important reasons that many of the homeowners in this area endured the inconveniences and the expense of paying taxes on acreage, even when we are often only allowed to clear and utilize a portion of that acreage in order to provide a safe haven for the wildlife.

Mr. Hingtgen, Planners, I will not begin to speak to the environmental aspect of what this proposed change will bring to our community but I feel certain that there will be environmental consequences. And while I understand from the information provided, that the proposed Mining operation is projected to use less water than the golf course, I feel certain that their use of the water may affect our water table and the water collected in the Sweetwater basin. And as with the water pollution, I am certain that the noise pollution will be a factor as well, especially to those who live and do businesses in direct proximity to the site, but that can only accurately be measured once this change of use is in place **and then it is too late.**

Please understand that as a homeowner and business owner, I would expect others to respect my right to sell my property and or to make the best of use of it that I could. And while I might feel a measure of sympathy for the position of hardship that the owners of Cottonwood Golf Course have found themselves, trying to keep afloat what appears to be a sinking ship, I must return to my original arguments: **This area of the county offers and sells a way of life, not just homes or home sites. We offer a peaceful location where you can live on the golf course and at times watch the water or wildlife run through it. Where you play a round of golf in a quiet natural setting far away from the congestion of the city and hear your ball when it strikes a tree or even the pin for a hole in one in you are truly skilled at the game. It is a place where homeowners have invested hundreds of MILLIONS of dollars and have paid tens of thousands of dollars of property taxes a year per property to live in a quiet rural setting in close proximity to restaurants, grocery stores, schools, doctors and the movies, and FAR AWAY FROM INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES OR MINING OPERATIONS.**

**And while the owners of Cottonwood Golf Course would most certainly benefit from the "Bail out" this provides through the proposed change in use, the community and surrounding businesses will not.**

Finally to summarize my position, please explain to me why should one business owner in this community benefit at the expense of a community and the surrounding businesses? Furthermore, please explain why one business owner that failed to budget correctly or put money aside for the hard times, benefit at the expense of all others who have invested in this community and area of the county? They should not, even if the revenue and or taxes paid to the county might be incentivizing.

Sir, we all make decisions in life, some turn out well and others not so well and we all must weigh and measure those factors when we take the risk and be willing to live with the outcome whether good in nature or devastating for that is the very definition of "risk". Homeowners throw the dice and spend \$25,000 to sink a well only to come up dry and then have to spend another \$25k-\$50k to connect to county water. Others spend hundreds of thousands on speculative properties only to find the market slow or non-existent when it comes time to sell and the properties that were to help build someone's financial nest egg is now the Albatross around their neck that will ultimately spell their financial ruin. Businesses open and close daily and fortune's, life savings and dreams are lost in the process, but that does not mean that you should allow a business owner who has failed to meet his financial goals to change the use of a property that will influence the value of millions of dollars in homes that have been built around it. **Life is about taking chances and sometimes they turn out badly. And indeed life is not often fair, and while we can rant and rave at the injustice of that, we are all called upon to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and move on hopefully being wiser for the experience.**

**So for all of the reasons detailed above and many more and for the benefit of the greater good, the homeowners who have invested their life's savings into this community and for the businesses who are struggling but making their way towards success in this quiet rural community, please deny this request.**

Respectfully,

Kat Higginson

***Thank you!***

NOTE: I often type escrows in all CAPS & forget to switch with emails, If you receive all CAPS, please do not think I am yelling at you!

*Kat Higginson*, Officer/Manager/Owner

**Katalac Escrow Inc.**

3858 Alta Loma Ct

Jamul CA 91935 [San Diego County]

**Direct: 619-590-0226**

**Fax: 888-377-7719**

[kat@katalacescrow.com](mailto:kat@katalacescrow.com)



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Call before you use any revised instructions **FUNDS WIRED TO THE WRONG**

**ACCOUNT CAN BE LOST FOREVER AND ARE NOT INSURED.**

Date: 11/11/19  
From: Robert and Kathleen Higginson (bobkatadventures@gmail.com)  
3858 Alta Loma Court, Jamul, CA 91935  
To: Bronwyn Brown, Project Planner ([Bronwyn.Brown@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Bronwyn.Brown@sdcounty.ca.gov))  
San Diego County Planning and Development Services  
Subject: **Major Use Permit 18-023: The Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Ms. Brown,

I write to voice my strong objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. I believe that the increase in traffic on Willow Glen will significantly impact residents in the immediate area. Trucks accessing Willow Glen Drive will not only affect the flow of traffic, but will have a significant impact on the road surface due to the nature of material hauling trucks. Willow Glen road already demonstrates a lack of capacity during specific times of the day (drop off and pick up for Jamul elementary or drive to/return from work times). I believe that the possibility of a significant impact on the Sweetwater water shed exists due to heavy equipment operating in the flood plain and that endangered species that are located in the Sweetwater river valley will be impacted. Clearly, property values of homes immediately adjacent to the proposed mining operation will be affected negatively. While I appreciate the fact that a property owner ought to be able to use/develop his or her property within the laws and regulations established for an area, it is my opinion that this area being zoned for extractive operations has been superseded by the residential nature of the area and is no longer appropriate. I urge you not recommend approval of this Major Use Permit.

Sincerely,

Bob and Kat Higginson

**From:** [Brown, Bronwyn](#)  
**To:** [Steven, Heather](#); [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Major Use Permit 18-023: The Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 3:03:39 PM

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**From:** Mark Hillis <mark@markhillis.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2019 3:02 PM  
**To:** Brown, Bronwyn <Bronwyn.Brown@sdcounty.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Major Use Permit 18-023: The Cottonwood Sand Mining Project

Dear Ms. Brown,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mark Hillis

[mark@markhillis.com](mailto:mark@markhillis.com)

619-660-2712

10902 Avenida Benjamin

La Mesa, CA 91941 (Rancho San Diego)

**From:** Bill Hoffman  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to sand mining at former Cottonwood golf course  
**Date:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 5:26:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [11-01-19 Cottonwood Plan UT.pdf](#)

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am opposed to sand mining at the former Cottonwood golf course property.

In addition to the damage and problems the sand mining would cause (as noted in attached 11/7/19 Union Tribune article), there is no guarantee the property would be properly restored or the funds guaranteed available for such restoration in the distant future.

Bill

--

**Bill Hoffman**  
*BS, MBA, LLB, CBA, GRI*  
*CA DRE Lic # 01861208*  
*CA CLB Lic # 933045*  
*760-489-2602 (cell/txt)*  
[www.BillHoffman.com](http://www.BillHoffman.com)

# Cottonwood plan irks residents

## Opponents speak out on proposal to extract sand from golf course property

BY KAREN PEARLMAN

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Plans by a Los Angeles businessman and a local developer to turn Cottonwood Golf Club in Rancho San Diego into a 214-acre sand mining operation continue to rile residents who live near the course.

Two dozen people spoke against the proposed project by Cottonwood owner Michael Schlesinger and applicant Greg Brown at a public meeting on Monday held by the county's Planning and Development Services Department.

The meeting was part of the county's process for a required environmental report about the property.

"A sand mine located in the center of a developed residential community will degrade the quality of the environment," said Elizabeth Urquhart, chairwoman of the group [stopcottonwoodsandmine.org](http://stopcottonwoodsandmine.org), "by creating traffic safety hazards, harming air quality, adding significant greenhouse gas emissions, eliminating plants and wildlife, destroying cultural resources and changing the beautiful, peaceful environment we now live in to one that is noisy and dangerous."

More speakers touched on concerns ranging from compromised water quality at the nearby Sweetwater Reservoir to noise pollution and lowered property values.

Several specifically pointed out anticipated harm from changes to the quality of the air for kids at schools and seniors living in residential care facilities in the area. Others talked about another quarry on Willow Glen Road in Rancho San Diego that has brought its share of noise to the neighborhood.

On Tuesday, Brown sent a statement that said, "This is just the beginning of a long and public process. As a fellow resident of the community, I appreciate and understand the concerns raised, and I think many of them can be addressed over the next several months."

The proposed 214-acre project would produce 4.8 million cubic yards or just over 7 million tons of mineral resources over a period of 10 years, and potentially reap more than \$40 million.

The mining operation would be done in three phases, with plans to restore the parcels once the aggregate has been taken. Sand excavation and processing would happen between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Trucking operations are proposed from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Post-mining plans show reclamation, restoration and re-vegetation. The land could also be suitable for development, but that would need separate approval from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

More than 100 people attended the meeting on Monday, which was to give people an opportunity to weigh in on the coming plans for the golf course, bought in 2015 by Los Angeles businessman Schlesinger.

The club was once a thriving destination with two 18-hole courses in the rolling hills near Jamul. The Sweetwater River cuts through the club, which opened in 1962 on Willow Glen Drive, near state Route 94. Struggling to pay its bills, Cottonwood filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in federal bankruptcy court in 2011.

Schlesinger specializes in buying distressed golf courses and then closing them. He owns the sites that formerly housed the Escondido Country Club and the Stone Ridge Country Club in Poway. The project's applicant, however, is Brown of El Cajon-based New West Investment Group Inc.

The county representatives at the meeting told the audience that the sand mining plan still has a ways to go to get through the county approval process.

More public meetings are ahead after a draft environmental impact report is created, a final EIR and then a staff report. Eventually, the Planning Commission will be tasked with making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Those who want to weigh in on the project have until 4 p.m. Nov. 22 to send an email to Robert Hingtgen, a county planner, at [robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

karen.pearlman@

sduniontribune.com

(619) 293-1829

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Scott Hollingsworth  
[scotthollingsworth@cox.net](mailto:scotthollingsworth@cox.net)  
3145 Via Caliente Del Sol  
Jamul CA 91935

Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

**From:** Terri Horn  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine Resident Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 11:29:14 AM

---

Mr. Hingtgen,

Please do not allow CottonWood to be mined for the following reasons:

1. My daughter and I are physically active but we both suffer from exercise induced asthma. The silt and dust in the air from mining would be seriously detrimental to our quality of life. The McGrath YMCA and local Kiwanis trail heads border CottonWood and would negatively impact hundreds of people who use those facilities. In addition, Jamacha Elementary, Steele Canyon High, Hillsdale Middle School, Rancho San Diego Elementary, Valhalla High School are all in close proximity of Cottonwood impacting the air quality of our growing children.
2. This is a residential bedroom community with no clear or quick access to freeways. The current road infrastructure cannot support any number of large double trailer vehicles. As it currently stands, it would take a regular vehicle 15 minutes to access Rte 8 or 94. With even 10 large trucks on the road at any given time, it will increase drive time significantly.
3. The person bought the land intending to make millions at a grave cost to the environment. The wildlife that Cottonwood habitats and protects would be at risk of extinction. It is also in a flood zone which could create significant problems for habitats if they even survive.
4. Home prices will plummet due to the air, noise, and traffic pollutions. If you wouldn't approve an old golf course in Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, or La Jolla for sand mining, then your office should apply these same guidelines to your east county residents.

Thank you for consideration.

Terri A Horn  
1942 Hidden Mesa Rd  
El Cajon, CA 92019

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Cody Howell  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood sandmine  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 4:20:33 PM

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Mr. Hingtgen,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Cody Howell

Sent from my iPhone

November 22, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I want to express my strong opposition to the proposed sand mine on the Cottonwood Golf Course property. Having owned acreage adjacent to the north part of Cottonwood golf course since 1949, the Ivanhoe Ranch, I remember an application for a sand plant on the Cottonwood property about 60 years ago, before the golf course was built. There was much opposition then, due in part to the narrow roads, so the members of the Board of Supervisors drove to the area, looked at the roads, and came to my hilltop house to look at the valleys on both sides. They decided that the beautiful area was more suitable for homes and ranching than a sand plant. The narrow roads are almost the same today as they were then, but now have heavy traffic due to schools, shopping centers, subdivisions, and casinos. So, since the board rejected the sand plant years ago (a matter of record), and gave permits for development over the years, I feel that their decision should be upheld. Also, since that time, a large portion of the Ivanhoe Ranch has become part of a National Wildlife Refuge and wildlife corridor. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will suffer. Some species are endangered, and the habitat destruction will have far-reaching and long-term impacts.

Sincerely,

Jean Immenschuh  
3261 Ivanhoe Ranch Rd.  
El Cajon, Ca 92019

**From:** ht64ss  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)  
**Subject:** Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 9:36:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [EIR Input Letter.docx](#)

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen ,

Please review my attached environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project.

Thank you,

Robert Jacques

Date: 20 November 20, 2019  
From: Robert Jacques ([ht64ss@gmail.com](mailto:ht64ss@gmail.com))  
2503 Wind River Rd.  
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Hingtgen@sdcountry.ca.gov))  
San Diego County Planning and Development Services  
Subject: **Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project**

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I submit to you my objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. The negatives greatly outweigh the positives to the people, the environment, water table, animal population to include both domestic and wildlife.

The pollution caused by this operation will come in three parts. The first is the air pollution to include silica and increased exhaust fumes from trucks. The second is the impact of going 35 feet below the surface therefore entering the water table that is connected to the Sweetwater Riverbed as well as the surrounding area plant and animal life. The plan as described at the last meeting would be to dig to a depth that would enter the water table. The third is the noise pollution created by the trucks, 2000 feet of conveyor belts, and required operational machinery.

The presented plan is to conduct at least 12 years of operations in proximity of two area high schools and the associated feeder elementary and junior high schools. This will not only add harmful air pollutants to our children and community but will add to the overcrowded narrow roadways in which our children drive upon. During this process millions of 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. I believe our local roads are already at the point of saturation from normal traffic, trucks, and other traffic. To add these additional trucks and traffic would place the community of Rancho San Diego into a super saturation condition of traffic as well as pollution.

When asked by the community what the positives were with this process the reply was that his company has already spent thousands and an enormous amount of time in the process. The owner then went on to explain the current cost of importing sand from Mexico and north county. In addition, the owner stated 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 owner displayed only an interest in making a profit and not of the impact to the community or county at large. In fact, the owner stated the location of his address and if anyone wanted to come over and discuss he would be more than happy. In addition, the lack luster preparation displayed by this company at the last meeting greatly concerned their business

practices.

Rancho San Diego is a large community with families, children, animals, endangered species and a National Wildlife Refuge. The animals and vegetation that now inhabit the open space surrounding the proposed mine site will similarly suffer. In addition, many nearby residents have wells and depend upon the groundwater to be available and potable. In the long term there was no firm plan of reclamation other than filling the land and adding some brush type vegetation.

I request the County Planning and Development Services closely review the impact this operation will have on the physical health of the community, environmental impact on air quality to include the affect of silica, water table affects, and the over saturation of noise and traffic. Also request you evaluate the impact to Plants and Wildlife including endangered species.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Jacques III

**From:** RUSSELL JAMES  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 9:01:36 PM

---

To Mr.Hingtgen and all whom it concerns,

I am commenting on my opposition to the permit and request to rezone the old Cottonwood Golf Course area to allow a Sand Mining operation. The Sand Mine operation would have a negative impact on the immediate local community. From an increase in noise, dust, environmental issues, to traffic concerns. All would reduce the quality of life for residents in the Rancho San Diego community. Many residents decided to move and settle in this area due to the way it is originally zoned and protected for residential and open space areas, **not industrial**. This project is **not** consistent with any of the local community or the County Plans. I do not feel that it would be the right thing to do to grant a variation in the set zoning

regulations to allow this project to move forward. I realize that the landowner has the right to ask for the permit and the County has the obligation to look at and consider the request, but the County also has the obligation to look at the big picture and consider how this project would affect the local community. If allowed to move forward the County will be putting the profits for one landowner ahead of the well being and quality of life for thousands of residents in the area. There is not one thing about this project that will benefit the local Community. Please consider these comments in your process of the EIR and the permit request.

Thank you for reading/listening.

Russell James

11780 Monte View Court

El Cajon , CA 92019

**From:** barryjantz barryjantz1@cox  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Cc:** [heather.stevens@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:heather.stevens@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood San Mine EIR Notice of Preparation  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 1:28:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [Cottonwood Sand Mine EIR NOP.pdf](#)

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Mr. Hingtgen:

Please accept the attached letter regarding the Cottonwood Sand Mine EIR (text also below).

Thank you,

Barry Jantz

*Re: Cottonwood Sand Mine Notice of Preparation of an EIR*

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

The establishment of a long-term sand mining operation in a well-established residential area – with its schools, senior centers, parks, and businesses – is very likely unprecedented. Sand and gravel operations are most always established in rural areas removed from neighborhoods, with the development of neighborhoods sometimes following the mining, not the other way around.

Being proposed in this case are not homes, a business center, or some other “people-oriented” development in proximity to existing ones. This is an industrial operation being proposed for at least a decade in an environmentally sensitive river valley, in close proximity to areas where people live, work, study, and play. It is clearly inconsistent with the character of the existing area.

Therefore, the approval of a major use permit for such an operation in this case would constitute a significant precedent for the County of San Diego, one that if approved in District 2 would set a standard for similar such operations near neighborhoods in other areas of the county. As such, the Environmental Review Process must be conducted with the highest possible and most stringent standards.

All areas of concern delineated by the County of San Diego in its May 31, 2019, scoping letter must be addressed in the EIR. The applicant’s most recent plan revisions may be construed as reducing the scope of the project, as a means to limit some of the agencies that would be involved in the review, approval, and/or permitting of the project. That cannot be the case.

It is essential that the following agencies be included in the EIR notification process, including any required approvals for the project:

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Army Corps of Engineers
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Transportation

California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

- California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area
- Sycuan, Jamul, Barona, and Viejas Tribal Governments
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Sweetwater Authority
- Otay Water District
- San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District
- Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
- Grossmont Union High School District
- Cajon Valley Union School District
- Jamul-Dulzura Union School District

Thank you very much for your time in ensuring these concerns and expectations are included in the EIR process.

Sincerely,

Barry M. Jantz



# County of San Diego

**MARK WARDLAW**  
DIRECTOR

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
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(858) 694-2882 • Fax (858) 694-2555  
www.sdcountry.ca.gov/pds

**KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

## **COTTONWOOD SAND MINE (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RF-18-001)**

### **NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET**

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE COTTONWOOD SAND MINE OPERATION!  
THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT COMMUNITY TO LIVE IN AND WAS NOT  
INTENDED TO BE INDUSTRIALIZED.  
THE ADDING OF THE SAND MINE WILL GREATLY REDUCE THE  
QUALITY OF THE AREA.  
MORE TRUCKS ON AN ALREADY CONGESTED ROAD, DUST & NOISE.  
THIS IS NOT WHAT WE ENVISIONED WHEN WE MOVED HERE.  
THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

  
Committer Signature, Date

DALE J. KIRK  
Print Name

2149 PACKARD PL.  
Address

EL CAJON, CA, 92019  
City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Cathy Jezierski  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cottonwood Sand Mine Proposal - Rancho San Diego  
**Date:** Saturday, November 09, 2019 3:25:54 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Cathy Jezierski <[cjezierski@cox.net](mailto:cjezierski@cox.net)>  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine Proposal - Rancho San Diego  
**Date:** November 8, 2019 at 1:52:48 PM PST  
**To:** cathy Jezierski <[cjezierski@cox.net](mailto:cjezierski@cox.net)>

Mr. Hingtgen:

I am writing to voice my concern on the proposed Sand Mine in Rancho San Diego. I have lived in Rancho San Diego for 29 years and I moved here because it is a quiet community and feels like "country". I am also the Board President of Monarch Ridge off Willow Glen and Hillsdale.

We have dealt with the quarry off Willow Glen for years and the trucks going up and down Willow Glen Road, but the quarry was here before us, so we really can't complain.

But this Sand Mine proposal is on another level. It is right next to an elementary school and the traffic alone from parents coming and going is enough on that two lane road. By adding this Sand Mine, it will affect our values of our houses. The roads will not be safe for people to go anywhere in Rancho San Diego. The noise and air quality can't be beneficial for anyone who has purchased their house in our area. The houses range in value from \$500,000 to over \$2million. No one is going to purchase a house near a Sand Mine.

Please take your time in looking at all the concerns we as a community are giving on this "proposal".

Thank you for your time

Catharine Jezierski  
1651 Monarch Ridge Circle  
El Cajon, CA 92019

**From:** Bill Jezierski  
**To:** [Hintgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine, MUP-18-023; NOP Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, November 17, 2019 3:35:03 PM

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Mr. Hintgen - As a 30+ year resident in unincorporated El Cajon/ Rancho San Diego, I wanted to take this opportunity to voice my deep displeasure with the sand mine project that is being considered in the vicinity of the current Cottonwood Golf Course. This project will bring with it a variety of dangers to the people living in its vicinity, as well as significant detrimental impacts to the environment if this plan is allowed to proceed. Our quality of life in this part of East County will be irreparably degraded - blighting a semi-rural county landscape and bring elevated noise levels; air, water and sensory pollution; significantly higher levels of vehicular traffic (especially from large gravel trucks, graders and other construction equipment) on secondary and tertiary county roads that were not designed for this level of use; increased wildfire danger; and the demise of general peace and quiet that we have worked hard to establish and maintain. There are nothing but negatives in this project, and the mine's development places residents at risk, impacting already limited escape routes from Jamul and other East County communities along SR 94 and its tributary roadway, in case of a natural disaster.

This sand mine proposition will provide no measurable benefit to East County, and the developers need to be sent a very clear and unambiguous message by the County of San Diego that this proposal is not acceptable now, nor will it likely be acceptable in the future. That message is the correct one to transmit, and it is the County's responsibility to its residents to provide it. Stop this project in its tracks; it is simply the right thing to do.

I am standing by for any questions or feedback that this email may generate. My contact information is below.

Thank you for your consideration.

William E. Jezierski  
CAPT, USN (Ret)  
619-402-6363 (c)  
619-588-2949 (h)  
wjezierski@cox.net



# County of San Diego

MARK WARDLAW  
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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

This proposed SAND MINE at Cottonwood would be a terrible waste. It would not only affect the community with increased dust, dust, noise, health affects as seen with the quarry on Willow Glenn. The quarry has had numerous extension, spews volumes of dust and dirt affecting overall health to children adults and the community in general. This is a ridiculous idea. I HAVE Many Health Concerns for the 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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

*Dr Richard Johnson* 11/19/2019  
Commenter Signature, Date

DR RICHARD JOHNSON  
Print Name

1445 VISTA SIERRA DR.  
Address

EL Cajon, Calif 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 OPPOSE THE SAND MINE DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT - DUST, DIRT, NOISE!

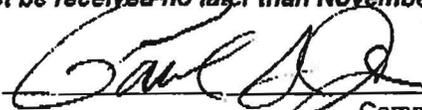
**Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

 11-21-19  
Commenter Signature, Date  
PAUL JOHNSON

Print Name  
2329 SUMMER HILL DR.

Address  
ENCINITAS CA 92024  
City, State, Zip Code

**From:** leeanne jolly  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Date:** Saturday, November 23, 2019 8:00:27 PM

---

Good evening Sir,

This is in regards to the proposed sand mining at Cottonwood golf course. Please don't allow this to happen. I drive by there everyday and I always find such joy Seeing people walk around the beautiful terrain. It's so beautiful why turn it into something so industrial that's impacts not only the environment but quality of life. Do you know more California's are leaving year after year to seek better lives. This is why. We pay the highest taxes in the country and for what? To enjoy sand mining right in the heart of our neighborhood. Think about all the homes filled with families, that will have to suffer. Their homes will depreciate in value, they will no longer want to walk and enjoy the fresh air. There will more traffic, more stress, and another let down with our government. It's all about money but it doesn't have to be. Please from a concerned citizen please don't take that simple joy for me every morning seeing such beauty. I'm a prior veteran, a now Radiation therapist (I treat cancer patients everyday) how I feel daily effects people that are fighting for there lives. For me driving by there everyday fills me with so much happiness. It's simply beautiful. I love my community but please don't these simple pleasures away form us. Turn it into a park for our children. I thank you for your time. Hope you have a wonderful thanksgiving!

Kind regards,

Leeanne Jolly  
[Leeannejolly89@gmail.com](mailto:Leeannejolly89@gmail.com)  
(619)713-3259

**From:** Penn Jones  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Cc:** [Jacob, Dianne](#)  
**Subject:** PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 11:44:55 AM

---

Dear Robert,

My wife live in close proximity to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine. This proposed use of the former Cottonwood Golf Course is inconsistent with the general plan of the area being a planned residential community. We moved to this neighborhood in 1986 and were attracted to the various community and recreational attributes of the Rancho San Diego area. My wife and I, along with many other residence of the neighborhood, are opposed to the proposed use of the former golf course as a sand mining operation. This proposed use would not also have an adverse impact on our quality of life, but also on the property values in the area which would also have an impact on the revenues generated by property taxes to the county. We urge you to ***please vote against*** the major use permit being considered to allow the sand mining operation to move forward.

Best Regards,

Orson & Carol Jones  
1813 Sea Pines Road  
El Cajon, California 92019

**Penn Jones, MAI, SRA**  
BREA Lic. #AG003429  
BRE Lic. #00336362



**CRES D**

Jones & Associates  
Commercial Real Estate of San Diego  
1813 Sea Pines Road, El Cajon, CA 92019  
Cell 619-466-3975  
[PennJones@outlook.com](mailto:PennJones@outlook.com) | [www.CRES D.net](http://www.CRES D.net)



# County of San Diego

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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

Regarding the proposed Cottonwood sand mine project, it seems absurd to me that anyone would think this project worthy of honest consideration. I am a resident of the Steele Canyon estates and will be significantly affected if this project is allowed to go forth.

Traffic congestion will be horrific. The fact that Sand Mine proposes limiting hours suggests to me that there is either little or no consideration for the impact of this on residents or there is simply a casual disregard for this impact. Residents moving to and from work, schools opening and closing with children and busses moving through the area, homeowners and those caring for homes will all be impacted. I expect, impacted significantly. This is not a trivial number of folks.

There is an air pollution hazard. Not only will there surely be significant dust and dirt suspended in the air, there is, as well, the risk of chemical contamination emanating from the dislodged soil presenting a health hazard that I doubt Sand Mine fully appreciates or more probably really cares about. Noise will be a problem. It will be always present. Part of the joy of living here is that it can be quiet and peaceful, which is something I want very much as part of my life style. That is why I bought a home here. Now, I wonder if I will stay here.

Certainly, property values will be significantly diminished. I understand that the project duration is purported to be 10 years, yet it will be several years beyond that before life truly returns to some sense of peace and quiet and before property values have a chance to recover.

Please, do not allow this project to proceed. Let me say that again; please do not allow this project to proceed. The number of just plain folks that will be impacted is very large and we all hope that the will of the people will trump big money, all the while aware that it often does not.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Commenter Signature, Date

STEPHEN JONES

Print Name

3202 GREYSTONE DRIVE

Address

JANU, CA 91935

City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Niveen K  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 3:11:06 PM

---

Date:(Fill in the Date)  
From:(Fill in Your Name & Email)  
(Fill in Your Address)  
To:Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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,

Niveen



**From:** Lee Keil  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine November 4, 2019 EIR Public Scoping Meeting - Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 11:56:13 AM

---

November 21, 2019

Re: Cottonwood Sand Mine November 4, 2019 EIR Public Scoping Meeting - Comments

Dear Sir:

Having spent the first half of my life struggling for breathe from asthma and alllergies, I am appalled at the prospect of spending the rest of my life facing the prospect of lung disease and cancer from silica dust from sand strip mining just yards away from my home.

Silica is a very common mineral and is found in many materials such as soil, sand, rock, and granite. From the Center for Construction Research and Training, "The dust created by cutting, grinding, or otherwise disturbing these minerals can contain crystalline silica particles. It only takes a very small, respirable amount of airborne silica dust to create a health hazard. Recognizing that very small, respirable particles are hazardous, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation 29 CFR 1926.1153 requires construction employers to keep worker exposures at or below a Permissible Exposure Level (PEL)." Surely if there are hazards for workers there are hazards to us residents living around the strip mining.

The sand strip mining at Cottonwood would expose not only us residents but the elementary school children even nearer the mining.

Additionally, our quality of life would be adversely impacted with the noise of the mining machinery at all hours, a truck driving by every 2 to 5 minutes, the wear and tear on the roads, increased traffic, the hazards from the increased traffic, reduction of property values.

The negative environmental impact on the wet lands and nature preserve downstream is all to real. I have witness the so called reclamation of natural landscape in a portion of Irvine, CA. It requires more than a bulldozer and planting a few trees or bushes to restore a natural landscape that is strip mined. It takes planning by environmental experts and biologists. If the mining operation goes bankrupt, what guarantees would be in place to ensure reclamation? A bond, escrow?

I am vehemently opposed to strip mining of sand at the former Cottonwood Golf Course.

Sincerely,

Lee Carley Keil  
245 Sawgrass Street  
Rancho San Diego, CA 92019  
[LCKsandiego@gmail.com](mailto:LCKsandiego@gmail.com)

**From:** Lisa Kelley  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sandmine  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 10:59:31 PM

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I live in close proximity to the area that may become a sandmine. I travel the roads regularly and frequently to pick my daughter up from Steele Canyon High School. Namely Willow Glen and Hillsdale Road. I implore you to not allow this development. It will create a traffic nightmare and increase traffic accidents in our area. Not to mention the pollution from machines working the sand, the particulate matter from the sand itself and the trucks transporting it. Noise pollution will increase as well. Quality of life for nearby residents will go down and so will the property values.

Please hear the community and deny this project from happening.

Thank you,  
Lisa Kelley  
2374 Indigo Drive  
El Cajon CA 92019



# County of San Diego

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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 am a homeowner in the Cottonwood Golf Course area. One of the selling points for purchasing in this area was the open green space with two golf courses at Cottonwood. We have lived in this neighborhood for 30 years. I am opposed to the County granting a permit for the golf course property to be turned into a sand mine. I believe that the silica dust produced from this project is a health hazard which has been linked to lung disease and cancer. This area is comprised of mostly single family homes, an elementary school and a residential treatment center for children. We all would be at high risk for health issues related to the approval of this project.

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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

*Tom Kelly* 11-18-19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commenter Signature, Date

*Tom Kelly*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

*3043 JAMACHA VIEW DRIVE*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

*El Cajon, Ca. 92019*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code



# County of San Diego

**MARK WARDLAW**  
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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 do not ruin a beautiful  
planned 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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

*Karen Kent* NOV 12 2019

Commenter Signature, Date

Karen Kent

Print Name

1770 Hillside Lane

Address

Escondido CA

92019 City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Jenn Kick  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** NO to the Rancho San Diego Sand Mine  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2019 6:37:13 PM

---

I am a second grade teacher and have taught at Jamacha Elementary for 25 years. Driving into work each day, I have watched the surrounding community go from a lush green, beautiful golf course to a desolate dry land. I understand that the owners of the golf course want to make money in a different way now, but please think about our community. Our young students and teachers share this environment. It was initially zoned for recreation because it is OUR neighborhood! We play on playgrounds and at Steel Canyon Park. A sand mine will impact our health, increase traffic in an already very dense area and add unnecessary noise. We are pleading with you to reconsider this location.

Sincerely,  
Jenn Kick  
Jamacha Elementary School

**From:** Sherri Kleeburg  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** STOP Cottonwood Sand Mine!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2019 2:42:06 PM

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I'm sure you have received many, many emails and letters by now and there is a reason for that. There are a lot of reasons all of us residents are concerned but they all boil down to the fact that this is an extremely bad location for a sand mine. As noted in the preliminary paperwork for the environmental impact report, concerns range from biological, health, and environmental concerns, noise concerns, and traffic concerns especially with regard to the nearby schools. Of course the visual impact to all of us is beyond disappointing-we've lived here since 1998 and consider this one of the most beautiful, peaceful places to live in San Diego. I cannot believe that the county would allow a sand mine to be dropped in the middle of such a residential community. BUT one of my biggest concern is the impact this will have on those of us who live in the area with regard to our safety in any sort of an emergency. As previously stated, we have lived here for 20+ years and any time there is an accident, a fire, a gas leak etc. the traffic flow on all nearby roads including Jamul Drive, Willow Glen, Campo and Steele Canyon is affected. Traffic many times comes to a standstill and it is impossible to drive in any direction. I hope that this is being taken into consideration in addition to all of the other concerns, some which were mentioned above.

I had planned on making a much bigger statement but as my husband just had surgery I have to keep this short. Just know that this community is not going to stop fighting this. It is a HORRIBLE idea.

Sincerely,  
Sherri Kleeburg

**From:** Michael Knab  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** No to the Cottonwood Sand Mine  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 6:58:59 AM

---

Dear Robert,

The Cottonwood Sand Mine will ruin what should be pastoral land for the enjoyment of families. There can be no economic rationale that can possibly require such an inappropriate use of our land. I'm asking you to STOP this insanity. Just the vapor of the idea is degrading our land even now.

What will you do?

***Michael Knab***

Resident, Mount Merritt  
818-292-7405  
San Diego, California

**From:** Dana Knutson <[danamknutson@cox.net](mailto:danamknutson@cox.net)>

**Date:** November 22, 2019 at 5:03:43 PM PST

**To:** [info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.com](mailto:info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.com)

**Subject: Re: Community Input Needed!**

Huge concerns: air quality causing health issues; all of the homes near by; schools; traffic on road not to mention wear and tare on the roads; Senior community. Housing prices will decline. Who is going to want to purchase a home with all the negative 🗑️ things going on?? This is outrageous that it is even considered!! It's dangerous and crazy.

Sincerely, Dana Knutson



County of San Diego

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MARK WARDLAW  
DIRECTOR

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

TOTALLY AGAINST THIS FOR NUMEROUS  
REASONS 1. Health issues from the dirt  
to the residence school. Pros the  
unfodly to go it will cause  
an already congested area the  
beauty of the land will be  
destroyed now. Pollution and  
NUMEROUS other issues this  
needs to be in a area that  
has no residence

Submit by Mail, Fax or Email. Comments must be received no later than November 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.  
Robert Hinglgen, Environmental Coordinator  
County of San Diego  
Planning and Development Services  
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Email: [robert.hinglgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:robert.hinglgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Print Name

JAMIE LA FORUNE

Address

13966 CAMPO RD

City, State, Zip Code

JAMUL CA 91935

FAX: (658) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hinglgen: (658) 694-3712



# County of San Diego

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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 STOP This Sand Mine From going  
forward!! The excessive traffic, noise and pollution  
with greatly affect the health, and well being  
of the people who live and travel on Willow  
Glenn and the surrounding areas.

it will cause more road rage that already  
exists.

Please Stop this from  
Continuing

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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Commenter Signature, Date

Christine Laframboise

Print Name

1629 Fuerte Ranch Rd

Address

El Cajon, Ca 92019

City, State, Zip Code



# County of San Diego

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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

### NOVEMBER 4, 2019 EIR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING - COMMENT SHEET

This is a terrible use of such a beautiful property. We have moved into this tranquil area because of all the recreational amenities - granted we may not need 3 golf courses but this site could accomodate an amazing sports complex that could attract sporting tournaments, provide access to fields, tennis courts & pools. This could bring tremendous financial benefits to our small (& large) businesses & may attract a nice hotel to the area. Additionally, there could be adverse health affects to neighbors.

**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  
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Planning and Development Services  
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 310  
San Diego, CA 92123

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FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Christine LaMarra 11/16/2019  
Commenter Signature, Date

Christine LaMarra  
Print Name

1487 Vista Sierra Dr  
Address

El Cajon CA 92019  
City, State, Zip Code



# County of San Diego

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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

Mr. Hingtgen,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. When I first heard about the proposed sand project, I thought it was so absurd and would never be considered for an area. Now I find myself writing to let you know how bad this would be for our neighborhood. I have lived here over 20 years in this community full of families. From the elementary school to the senior center and everyone in between, this is a terrible choice. Air quality, traffic congestion, noise are just a few of the things that would impact our neighborhood - not to mention what it would do to all of our home values.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

Please No!

Carol Larsen

Commenter Signature, Date

Carol Larsen

Print Name

3347 Coreystone Dr.

Address

Jamul, CA 91935

City, State, Zip Code

I have confidence that you, Mr. Hingtgen, will make the right choice! Make it a great day!!

**From:** Lori LeFeuvre  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 7:49:50 PM

---

Dear Mr. Hingtgen,

I am a resident of Steele Canyon Estates in Jamul. This e-mail is to voice my objection to the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project. My biggest objections are the traffic it will cause and the decrease in home values in this area. But I know many others have been talked about.

Thank you for listening,

Lori LeFeuvre

3205 Greystone Drive

Jamul, CA 91935

[rhtcenter@cox.net](mailto:rhtcenter@cox.net)

619-871-0091

**From:** JANE LIVIGNI  
**To:** [Hintgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 06, 2019 3:54:42 PM

---

Dear Mr. Hintgen,

I am writing to voice my absolute objection to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mining Project. It is amazing, to me, that such a project would be considered in this neighborhood. The proposed site is a designated open space, next to a wildlife preserve going along a California Scenic Route. The Sweetwater Reservoir comes through this area which makes it also a flood zone.

When I purchased my home 21 years ago, I bought in Rancho San Diego because of all the open space and peacefulness associated with this area. To propose a sand mine truly seems frivolous and contrary to this community. The environmental hazard of such an operation to the health of the residents let alone the noise levels is ridiculous.

The concern for the traffic and 176 truckloads of sand being shipped over 6 hours a day, five days a week, amounts to a truck either coming or going every two minutes. The absurdity of this proposal is unbelievable. The damage to our homes, lungs and ears is noteworthy.

Property values, in this area, would be reduced. The damage to the neighborhood and community could be of such magnitude that the culture of the environment/residents would change causing a migration from Rancho San Diego. My last concern is what makes this a viable project for the County: how much tax revenue would this bring to the bottom line of San Diego County and is it such that it warrants this abhorrent proposal.

Sincerely,

Jane LiVigni

2301 Sawgrass Street

El Cajon, CA 92019

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**From:** Brian Lorenz  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Cc:** [Elizabeth Urquhart](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine Opposition  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 3:54:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Dear Robert,

Thank you (and your colleagues) for facilitating the meeting last week and for hearing our concerns regarding the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine.

As a resident of the area for over 10 years, my family and I are deeply concerned about the idea of a sand mine in our area. There are so many health, environmental, and economic concerns for area residents, that it seems odd the County of San Diego would even entertain an application for such a project. However, I do understand that the law and due process affords various parties the right to apply to do anything. But this project, in particular, seems wildly inconsistent in relation to the surrounding community; so much so that it cannot possibly fit any Master Plan—or a Plan of any sort, for that matter.

As a business owner, I understand that businesses must exist in order to facilitate a tax base and drive growth in a region. A fundamental fallacy is that we “need” the aggregate sand that would come from this mine. However, there are dozens of sand mines already producing in the region, there is an ample supply of inexpensive sand from Mexico, and there are many other identified aggregate resource area in the county that are NOT IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY to so many residents. In addition to rights, businesses have responsibilities. And, the County of San Diego is charged with reviewing potential conflicts and/or violations on behalf of County residents to ensure that we are protected from irresponsible businesses and business activities. A sand mine in and of itself is not a bad thing. But, a sand mine in this tightly populated community is a horrible thing. Please consider the impact of the proposed project ALONG WITH the impact of the existing area quarries and mining projects and understand/realize/accept that this is not the place for such an operation.

As a cyclist in the area, I am deeply saddened at the possibility of a sand mine on Willow Glen Drive. As you know, the shopping center at Jamacha Road and Willow Glen Dr is a popular staging area for hundreds of cyclists every week. The addition of at least three new intersections along Willow Glen with another 170 semi tractor trailer trips every day and the potential to spill sand on the road is a recipe for disaster! Sand is a road cyclist’s natural enemy. It can and will cause serious crashes as cyclists try to negotiate sand that has spilled from trailers. When a cyclist falls on Willow Glen, they are laying on a road where most drivers are traveling 50+ mph. Traffic as it exists today leaves every cyclist feeling grateful if they’ve ridden safely around the Great Western Loop, or up to Alpine and back. To stack to odds against us even more by adding this additional traffic and its associated hazards makes no sense whatsoever.

Just because a business has a right to apply for operation doesn’t give the owner the right to operate that business; especially in the face of so many viable concerns, including a negative impact on our evacuation route and the purposeful stirring up of a known carcinogen (silica).

Thank you again for hearing me out last week at the meeting and for receiving my comments in this letter.

On a personal note, it was great meeting you and I hope to ride with you at some point soon.  
Best regards,

Brian Lorenz  
President  
619 306 8031

**Lorenz**

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**From:** Frank Lucero  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](mailto:Hingtgen.Robert.J)  
**Subject:** Environmental Impact Report Input for Cottonwood Sand Mining Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 10:40:18 PM

---

Date: November 20, 2019  
From: Frank Lucero flucero77@yahoo.com  
3158 Jamacha View Dr. El Cajon, CA 92019  
To: Robert Hingtgen, Planner III ([Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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,

Thank you for allowing the residents of Rancho San Diego (RSD) the opportunity to provide input regarding the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mining Project. I'm contacting you because my family has many concerns regarding the negative effects the sand mine project would have on the quality of life, the ecological environment and my family's health and safety.

As a thirty-year resident of RSD, I have witnessed the transition from a semi-rural area to a suburban community. The area had a rodeo, Boy Scout campgrounds and horse trails. Over time the rodeo was replaced by Steele Canyon High School, homes were built on the campgrounds and surrounding area and part of the horse trails were sold and developed into the RSD shopping center. The changes were inevitable but welcomed. However, the sand mine project is incongruous with a community that now includes condos, gated communities, two pre-schools and five elementary schools, Hillsdale Middle School and Valhalla and Steele Canyon High Schools, Cuyamaca College, senior centers and numerous churches.

The excavation of the Cottonwood Golf course up to a depth of forty feet (visualize a four-story building inverted), the construction of a conveyor to transport the sand onto the trucks, and the increased noise and truck traffic will only have a negative impact on the RSD quality of life.

As a retired math and science teacher, I am well aware of the existence of a fragile ecological environment of the dedicated nature preserve and the Sweetwater River table area within the proposed sand mine excavation. Recently, the burrowing owl has been reintroduced into the area and there are vernal pool habitats with the endangered fairy shrimp. The sand mine project will upend these habitats.

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

In summary, the Lucero family stands with the RSD community in opposition of the Cottonwood

Sand Mining Project.

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

Sincerely,  
Frank Lucero

Frank Lucero  
YTSD Instructor/ Math Consultant  
Office (619) 244-7066

**From:** Frank Lucero  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** Cottonwood Sand Mine Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 11:23:03 PM

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Hi Mr. Hingtgen,

I already sent you a written communication for input into your report. I've included a visual to show how beautiful the designated sand mine project area is after a winter snowpack and rain. You can see the snow capped mountains in the upper left hand part of the picture. If you can, please include this picture so people have some sort of visual perspective.

Mahalo, gracias, salamat and thank you.

Frank Lucero  
YTSD Instructor/ Math Consultant  
Office (619) 244-7066

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

**From:** flucero77@yahoo.com <flucero77@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Frank Lucero <flucero77@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 05:51:32 PM PST  
**Subject:**



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



# 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

My wife and I would like to express our opposition to this planned Sand Mine. We feel it would create unsafe conditions for traffic and health concerns for those residents with respiratory issues.

If these plans do not mitigate the traffic and air quality concerns just described in a manner which pleases all residents, we vote to not allow ~~this~~ the approval of this mine venture.

**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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

*David Luke*

11/18/2019

Commenter Signature, Date

David Luke

Print Name

2119 Packard Place

Address

El Cajon, CA 92019

City, State, Zip Code

**From:** Devona Madalow  
**To:** [Hingtgen, Robert J](#)  
**Subject:** WillowGlen  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 6:48:43 PM

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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 niece 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,

Devona Madalow



# County of San Diego

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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

A sand mine, located in the center of a developed residential community will degrade the quality of the environment by creating traffic safety hazards, harming air quality, adding significant greenhouse gas emissions, eliminating parts of wildlife, destroying cultural resources and changing the beautiful peaceful environment I now live in to one that is noisy & dangerous. SANDAG'S 2011 SD Region Aggregate Supply Study, of which the Sand Mine dev. (Env. Impact) was part of the expert panel review, indicates that sand mines should be located on areas not dev. & have not been conserved for environmental →

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](mailto:robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov)

FAX: (858) 694-2555

Phone: Robert Hingtgen: (858) 694-3712

*Minerva Malin* 11-20-19  
Commenter Signature, Date

Minerva Malin  
Print Name

3101 Jamacha View Dr.  
Address

El Cajon, CA 92019  
City, State, Zip Code