



Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org. Save Our Community

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Media Advisory

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Public Meeting Monday on Cottonwood Sand Mine Project Proposal *County seeks input on preparation of Environmental Impact Report*

(Rancho San Diego) – Several dozens of concerned citizens are expected to turn out Monday night, as the County of San Diego holds a public scoping meeting to solicit comments on a proposed Sand Mine project on the site of the Cottonwood Golf Course.

The meeting is part of the 30-day period on the Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. During that period, the County is seeking public comments, in writing, between 10/24/19 and 11/22/19 at 4:00 p.m.

What: Public Scoping Meeting on the Proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine Project

When: Monday November 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Hillsdale Middle School, 1301 Brabham Street, El Cajon (Rancho San Diego area), 92019

Who: The public is invited to hear about the project and provide comments. Stop Cottonwood San Mine, Org. will be on hand to provide input as well as information to attendees. Chairs will be set up for 400 people.

Why: The meeting is part of the 30-day period on the Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. The County is seeking public comments, in writing, between 10/24/19 and 11/22/19 at 4:00 p.m. to Robert Hingtgen, Planner III, at Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov.

County staff will be present at the meeting to provide hand-outs with the Cottonwood Sand Mine project description, relevant maps, and speaker slips. A PowerPoint presentation will occur describing the project, which will be available on the County project website on 11/5/19 at <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/ceqa/MUP-18-023.html>.

Anyone speaking at the public meeting is asked to also submit comments in writing, either at the meeting or by email following the meeting, by 4 p.m. on November 22, as noted above.

More Info on Stop Cottonwood San Mine, Org: www.stopcottonwoodsandmine.org

Background: The Cottonwood sand mine is proposed by New West Investment and investor Michael Schlesinger, who purchased Cottonwood Golf Course in 2015, four years after the golf course filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The initial proposal included mining of 4.7 million cubic yards with approximately 3.8 million cubic yards (5.7 million tons) of construction aggregate produced over ten years, in three phases with reclamation planned after each phase. The original project application was filed in November 2018.

Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org. held a community meeting in late November 2018, attended by over 200 residents, and within three weeks submitted over 2,100 petition signatures and 70 additional comments to the County of San Diego from area residents opposed to the plan. County staff also reported over 130 emails or letters received directly from residents. Several hundred have also signed up on the group's website to receive ongoing communications about actions they can take to reject plans for the sand mine.