

Cottonwood Sand Mine Opposition

From: Brian Lorenz

To: "robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov"

Cc: Elizabeth Urquhart

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 Advertising
7839 University Ave
Suite 107
La Mesa, CA 91942

www.LorenzAdvertising.com
<http://www.facebook.com/LorenzAdvertising>