

From: tom shaddox <tomshaddox@gmail.com>

Subject: Cottonwood sand mining proposal

Date: November 22, 2019 at 11:35:51 AM PST

To: Robert J Hingtgen <robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Sir:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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