



StopCottonwoodSandMine.org

Save Our Community

## TALKING POINTS

July 25, 2023

Public Meeting on the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project

**Revised Project Description Raises More Questions** – what other significant changes can the community expect during this process?

**Traffic remains a significant impact that cannot be mitigated** – an additional 58 truck trips will occur daily due to the need to haul back-fill material – this is on top of the 89 truck trips stated in the original Draft EIR. This totals 147 round-trip truck trips daily or 294 trucks either coming to or leaving the Sand Mine location. Trucks will be operating Monday – Friday from 9:00am to 3:30pm or 6.5 hours daily. This means a large hauling truck will be traveling either to or from the project site every 1.3 minutes or 78 seconds.

**Biological Resources remain a significant impact that cannot be mitigated** – there were 23 animal species identified as potentially being significantly impacted. Mitigation measures proposed involving relocation of species, removing their habitat by eliminating trees and plants, or having minimal setbacks and noise barriers are wholly inadequate. The report minimizes the fact that the project site is currently a vital and critical wildlife linkage/corridor connecting protected wildlife habitat near and adjacent to the project site. A decade of project mining could cause permanent impacts affecting wildlife community health by fracturing and isolating wildlife communities. This property is zoned Open Space-Recreational to protect the land and its inhabitants. This commitment should be honored.

**Noise to the surrounding area remains a significant impact that cannot be mitigated** – a second conveyor will now be used to transport backfill material and the mining operation noise is assessed as potentially significant. Mitigation measures described will not mitigate the high level of cumulative noise experienced by all community residences around the sand mine location, especially residences at higher elevations.

**The Stormwater Quality Management Plan was revised** – the Plan is very generic, lacks specifics and focuses more on what the final product will look like rather than HOW the water source in the event of storms will be protected during the 10+ years of the mining operation.

**Overall** – the focus in the RDEIR is more on the proposed Reclamation Plan for mitigation of impacts rather than the damage that will occur during the time of the mining operation and the horrible irreparable harm to people, the neighborhood, and the environment.