



## County of San Diego

**MARK WARDLAW**  
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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
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**KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

July 27, 2020

Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org.

Planning & Development Services (PDS) is responding to your email dated May 26, 2020 regarding concerns you have with the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine project (Project). Specifically, the ability of all concerned citizens to participate in future public meetings due to the restrictions relating to public gatherings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand your concerns and recognize the importance of public participation in meetings held by PDS. We also appreciate your involvement in the process thus far.

PDS has reviewed the first draft of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and associated technical studies submitted on March 12, 2020 for the Project. These studies identify potential impacts and determine if there are feasible mitigation measures and alternatives to reduce those impacts. Additional reviews will be necessary before the documents will be accepted by PDS. When the Draft EIR and technical studies are accepted by PDS, they will be released for a 45-day public review period. A public meeting will also be held during that time.

PDS will notify you when the Draft EIR is released for public review and the date of the public meeting. The public review period will provide you the opportunity to review the Draft EIR documents. The public meeting is intended to provide the public an overview of the analysis to help inform your written comments. This meeting may be virtual, depending on any public health orders in effect at the time of public review. Staff will review all comments received during the public review period and respond accordingly.

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At this time, it is estimated that public review of the Draft EIR and technical studies may occur later in the year. After the completion of environmental review process, the project will be scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning Commission for a decision. The hearing may occur in Summer 2021; however, this will depend on the completion of the Draft EIR process. The decision of the Planning Commission may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.

During this time of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County is continuing to serve its residents, which includes holding public meetings of the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission. These meetings are necessary to perform essential government functions. Although in-person participation is currently prohibited, members of the public can provide comments through teleconference during public meetings of the Planning Commission and by submitting e-comments and/or written comments prior to the meeting.

The restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic could change over the coming months and it is not possible to predict the measures that will be in place at the time this project is ready for public review and hearing. The County will continue to follow State and local requirements and PDS will determine the parameters for holding public meetings based on any restrictions in place at that time.

Your contact information is included in our notification list so you will receive future notices about public review of the draft EIR and the Planning Commission hearing. If you have additional questions, please contact Heather Steven at [heather.steven@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:heather.steven@sdcounty.ca.gov) or (858) 495-5802. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



MARK WARDLAW, Director  
Planning & Development Services