

From: "Steve Reinstein" <swreinstein@aol.com>

Date: November 8, 2019 at 10:00:33 PM PST

To: "Hingtgen, Robert J" <Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov>

Cc: "Elizabeth Urquhart" <info@stopcottonwoodsandmine.com>

Subject: RE: PDS2018-MUP-18-023; Cottonwood Sand Mine

Mr. Robert Hingtgen, Environmental Coordinator

County of San Diego

Planning and Development Services

Please find attached (1) a document containing the comments I made during the Monday, November 4 meeting and (2) a copy of the comments I had submitted in December of last year. Pursuant to our discussions on Monday, I am submitting the additional comments below.

In listening to the concerns expressed during the November 4 EIR Public Scoping Meeting with respect to the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine (PDS2018-MUP-18-023, PDS2018-RP-18-001) and after review of documentation for the El Monte Sand Mining Project (PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001, EIS Chapter 2.2, Air Quality and Appendix Q, Valley Fever Technical Report), I have reached the conclusion that the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project poses health risks that are unacceptable to our community.

Three factors weigh into consideration in the risk analysis: the airborne dust that is an expected result of the mining operations; silicosis; and Valley Fever. The vectors pushing these risk elements into the community arise out of the very nature of the mining activities. It is a virtual certainty that there will be an airborne plume created by the mine and the extensive material handling involved. The effectiveness of control by watering three times per day is offset to an unknown extent by the simple fact that San Diego County has an arid climate, with East County relative humidity often dropping into the single digit range. The use of sweeping equipment to control dust carries the potential for increasing the airborne quantity of fine particles.

While the mining employees are likely to benefit from the protection afforded by respirators, this is a form of protection that will not extend to the surrounding population. The air quality conditions on site do not magically vanish at the site boundaries. We remain at risk.

As has been pointed out, the sand mine would have as neighbors an elementary school and a senior living facility, two of the most at-risk groups. The population density of the surrounding community is

such that it will also include a significant number of pre-school-age children, who are perhaps the most vulnerable of us all. Statistic based impact predictions based on larger, more diverse population groups contain a bias for understatement of the undesirable health impacts the sand mining would bring into this community.

My greatest fear is that the project is approved, and we find our community suffering from negative health impacts beyond what is envisioned in the Environmental Impact Report. In such a case the County may find it is estopped from revoking a permit issued based on expected health impacts well below actual experience. That is the point at which we are no longer neighbors and residents, we are victims, and those who have approved the project can but hang their heads in shame and guilt.

Sincerely,

Stephen Reinstein

3364 Indian Mills Lane

Jamul, CA 91935