

Barry M. Jantz

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Jamul, CA 91935
619-300-3795

November 22, 2019

County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
Robert Hingtgen
Via email: Robert.Hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov
Cc: Heather Steven, Heather.Steven@sdcounty.ca.gov

Re: Cottonwood Sand Mine Notice of Preparation of an EIR

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

The establishment of a long-term sand mining operation in a well-established residential area – with its schools, senior centers, parks, and businesses – is very likely unprecedented. Sand and gravel operations are most always established in rural areas removed from neighborhoods, with the development of neighborhoods sometimes following the mining, not the other way around.

Being proposed in this case are not homes, a business center, or some other “people-oriented” development in proximity to existing ones. This is an industrial operation being proposed for at least a decade in an environmentally sensitive river valley, in close proximity to areas where people live, work, study, and play. It is clearly inconsistent with the character of the existing area.

Therefore, the approval of a major use permit for such an operation in this case would constitute a significant precedent for the County of San Diego, one that if approved in District 2 would set a standard for similar such operations near neighborhoods in other areas of the county. As such, the Environmental Review Process must be conducted with the highest possible and most stringent standards.

All areas of concern delineated by the County of San Diego in its May 31, 2019, scoping letter must be addressed in the EIR. The applicant’s most recent plan revisions may be construed as reducing the scope of the project, as a means to limit some of the agencies that would be involved in the review, approval, and/or permitting of the project. That cannot be the case.

It is essential that the following agencies be included in the EIR notification process, including any required approvals for the project:

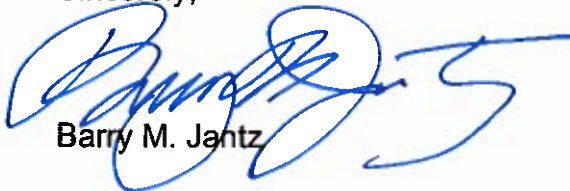
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Army Corps of Engineers

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- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Transportation
- California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
- California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area
- Sycuan, Jamul, Barona, and Viejas Tribal Governments
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Sweetwater Authority
- Otay Water District
- San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District
- Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
- Grossmont Union High School District
- Cajon Valley Union School District
- Jamul-Dulzura Union School District

Thank you very much for your time in ensuring these concerns and expectations are included in the EIR process.

Sincerely,



Barry M. Jantz