



# Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine, Org.

## Save Our Community

**Website:** [stopcottonwoodsandmine.org](http://stopcottonwoodsandmine.org)

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## TALKING POINTS

*A Sand Mine located in the center of a developed residential community will degrade the quality of the environment by creating traffic safety hazards, harming air quality, adding significant greenhouse gas emissions, eliminating plants & wildlife, destroying cultural resources, and changing the beautiful, peaceful environment we now live in to one that is noisy and dangerous. SANDAG's 2011 San Diego Region Aggregate Supply Study, of which the Sand Mine developer (EnviroMINE, Inc.) was part of the expert panel review, indicates that sand mines should be located on areas not developed and have not been conserved for environmental reasons. This is simply an inappropriate location for a Sand Mine!*

1. **Project must be consistent with San Diego County General Plan, Valle De Oro Community Plan, and Rancho San Diego Specific Plan** – the proposed Sand Mine project is not consistent with all plan policies.
2. **Traffic Safety Hazard** – cumulative impact to traffic, safety and emergency evacuation routes must be considered; in addition to proposed Sand Mine, the Enclave at Ivanhoe Ranch is planning 119 residences adjacent to the site. Already congested use of Jamul Drive, Steele Canyon Road, and Willow Glen Road cannot handle additional heavy use.
3. **Land Use & Community Character** – the character of the area is developed and consists of residential, recreational, civic and open space uses. The RSD Specific Plan identifies the Cottonwood Golf Course serving as a buffer area and providing a larger setback to sensitive habitat areas. A Sand Mine will destroy sensitive habitat areas.
4. **Major Use Permit Findings** – proposed use requires that location, size, design and operating characteristics be compatible with adjacent uses – residences and nearby buildings. The proposed Sand Mine will have a harmful effect upon RSD's desirable neighborhood character; the generation of traffic; the capacity and physical character of surrounding streets; and, the suitability of the site for the type and intensity of use or development which is proposed.
5. **Biological Resources** – the area contains jurisdictional waters of the State of California and the United States, including protected wetlands, requiring approval from State and Federal resource agencies. Several federally endangered and threatened species have been identified on or in the vicinity of the proposed project site (site is adjacent to the National Wildlife Refuge). The site is also within the South County and Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segments of the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) designated preserve areas.
6. **Visual Resources** – Willow Glen Drive is designated as a County Scenic Road. Impacts to travelers using this road, persons walking and bicycling the road, and residences along the ridges that view this road must be considered.
7. **Air/Noise/Altered Hydrogeologic Conditions** – proposed Sand Mine would significantly impact the environment potentially harming residents, plant and animal species, water and the land. Such harm to human beings and our environment must take priority over temporary private financial gain.
8. **Sweetwater River** – the Sweetwater Authority documented that the Sand Mine proposes a variety of activities that could significantly increase pollution of the Sweetwater Reservoir. This source of drinking water must be protected.
9. **Cultural Resources** – numerous archaeological resources have been identified within a one-mile radius of the proposed Sand Mine site. Significant impact to tribal cultural resources is likely.
10. **Sensitive Populations At-Risk** – sensitive populations include schools, resident care facilities, and facilities and residences that house individuals with health conditions (children & elderly) would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. Proposed Sand Mine identified residences and nearby Jamacha Elementary school as at-risk however they must also study impact to Adeona, an 80-bed residential treatment facility for adolescents which is adjacent to the Sand Mine site on Steele Canyon Road, the YMCA within a quarter mile of the property site, and La Vida Real, a senior living residence, which is about a half mile from the site.