

The Lakeside Community Planning Group conducted a special public meeting and public hearing on October 25, 2018 to consider the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed El Monte Valley Sand Mining. The meeting was duly noticed and attended by nearly 200 members of the expanded Lakeside community. The planning group heard testimony from 38 separate community members and met in open session to discuss the EIR following the public testimony.

The LCPG has adopted the following motion, which was passed unanimously 12-0 by the board:

The Lakeside Community Planning Group Board, a duly-elected public body, is opposed to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed El Monte Valley Sand Mining project.

We find that the EIR is flawed, inaccurate, out-of-date and inconsistent with the strong, clear and stated desire of the citizens of the community in which it is located. We summarily reject the EIR and base our opposition to the EIR on these factors:

1. The LCPG board (WE) are not satisfied that the danger of airborne Coccidioides spores that cause Silicosis and what is commonly known as Valley Fever can be either mitigated or remediated. Valley Fever is and has been present in the El Monte Valley area for decades, and there have been over a dozen cases reported in the last 14 years in the El Monte Valley. This is stated in the EIR to be unmitigable, significant and unavoidable.
2. WE are not satisfied that there will be sufficient mitigation for the stated significant and unavoidable highway safety factors related to the intended addition of 157 complete round trips of heavy truck trips six days each week for a twelve-year period, amounting to over 3,600 days. The roadways in the area were not engineered to withstand this added activity. The weight of the fully-loaded trucks with sand amounts to over 27 tons each. In addition, the intersection sets (at least two sets of traffic signals within 200 feet of each other) that would be used for egress/ingress at Lake Jennings Parkway and Interstate 8, as well as Mapleview at the 67 freeway are already at Level F and could not handle the increased traffic levels. This would result in clearly unmitigable traffic congestion on a system of two-lane roads with sometimes limited visibility.
3. WE are not satisfied that there would be mitigation for the stated significant and unavoidable deterioration of the roadway system in the El Monte Valley and in the surrounding community as a result of the estimated addition 314 trips per day (157 round trips) of heavy equipment
4. WE are not satisfied that there would be mitigation for the stated significant and unavoidable airborne dust and dirt particles from the project that would impact the breathing capacity of humans and animals in the expanded area in and around El Monte Valley, and also have a negative impact on the water quality and vegetative life in the region.
5. WE are not satisfied that there would be mitigation for the unavoidable impacts on the sensitive Native American cultural artifacts, burial grounds and history of the Kumeyaay

tribe that has been present in the El Monte Valley for over 10,000 years. The EIR clearly undervalues and lists these impacts as “less than significant” and the LCPG board sees these factors as highly significant. The Kumeyaay presence is a major part of the fabric and culture of our local community and should not be diminished.

6. WE are not satisfied that there would be mitigation for the stated significant and unavoidable negative visual impacts on the scenic resources in the El Monte Valley, including vistas, aesthetics and visual corridors.
7. WE are not satisfied that there would be mitigation for the stated significant and unavoidable impacts on wildfire danger prevention and the movement of wildfire fighting equipment. The area has been directly impacted by at least three major and devastating wildfires in recent years that necessitated evacuations and heroic firefighting efforts to save the land, dwellings, residents and animals in the El Monte Valley.
8. The EIR makes no mention of the clear negative impacts the project would have on land values and home values in the El Monte Valley and surrounding communities. WE believe that these impacts will be costly to local homeowners and land owners, as well as business that is conducted in the valley.
9. WE believe that the EIR does not take into consideration the need for monitoring of the factors we oppose, including but not limited to the number of vehicle trips tied to the mining operation, the weight of the sand proposed to be carried out of the valley, the hours and days of operation, the density of airborne dust and Coccidioides spores and the noise factors because of the proposed mining operation and other factors.
10. WE further are not satisfied that there would be sufficient mitigation for the significant and unavoidable negative impacts on the animal and plant life in the El Monte Valley and the surrounding communities. This is understated in the EIR.

Respectfully,  
Brian Sesko  
Chairman  
Lakeside Community Planning Group