

## Hingtgen, Robert J

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**To:** Bennett, Jim  
**Subject:** RE: El Monte & Nature Preserve Sand Mining Objections

-----Original Message-----

From: Adam Jaffe [mailto:aejaffe@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 2:19 PM  
To: Bennett, Jim  
Cc: Niran Bahjat-Abbas  
Subject: El Monte & Nature Preserve Sand Mining Objections

Mr. Bennett,

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed Sand Mining  
- PDS2015-MUP98-014W2, PDS2015-RP-15-001.

The proposed project will cause irreparable harm to the environment and remediation or mitigation is not possible in this case.

Note that the miners will promise they will do everything "by the book," but just take a look at what they did in Wisconsin!

Nearly a fifth of Wisconsin's 70 active frac sand mines and processing plants were cited for environmental violations last year, as the industry continued to expand.

Violations included air pollution, construction without permits, and an accident at the Preferred Sands mine in Trempealeau County where a mudslide during a heavy rainstorm damaged a neighboring property.

In addition, the state Department of Natural Resources wrote letters of noncompliance — warnings to fix a problem before it becomes serious enough to merit a notice of violation — at numerous facilities.

Among the obvious objections are:

1. Quality of life for San Diego County citizens will be greatly diminished by a variety of nuisances - such as noise pollution, air pollution and certain water contamination. The volume of trucks and work being done will create a "hell on Earth" for Lakeside residents.  
Fine particles of sand in the air for everyone to breathe is a recipe for medical issues for all down the road.

Let's not turn Brenda Tabor-Adams' story into a San Diego story:

Small business owner, Brenda Tabor-Adams, lives with her husband and 2-year-old son in a silica frac sand mining district between New Auburn and Chetek, WI. They are surrounded by mines. Two separate facilities are within a third of a mile and three more are within one mile of her once-quiet, rural property. In addition, several more mines are proposed or already operating nearby. Brenda's clients now compete with 1,000 sand trucks per day, or 20 trucks every 15 minutes, in order to get their horse trailers in and out of her property. With trucks running for 12 hours/day, 6 days/week, her life has been turned upside down. Dismissed as "collateral damage" by local officials, she fears for the environmental impact, the health of her family and neighbors and the sustainability of her small business. Tabor-Adams

also details troubling issues that regular people face when dealing with multimillion dollar mining companies, including lawyers threatening lawsuits, town and county boards “stacked” with pro-sand officials, and the understaffing and underfunding of the Department of Natural Resources tasked to protect the land and the people. Brenda says, “Our government has failed us miserably...”

2. The unmitigated environmental disaster caused by the sand mining will result in the destruction of valuable habits for endangered species and other animals and will result in countless deaths

Impacts of sand mining can be broadly clasified into three categories:

#### Physical

The large-scale extraction of streambed materials, mining and dredging below the existing streambed, and the alteration of channel-bed form and shape leads to several impacts such as erosion of channel bed and banks, increase in channel slope, and change in channel morphology.

These impacts may cause: (1) the undercutting and collapse of river banks, (2) the loss of adjacent land and/or structures, (3) upstream erosion as a result of an increase in channel slope and changes in flow velocity, and (4) downstream erosion due to increased carrying capacity of the stream, downstream changes in patterns of deposition, and changes in channel bed and habitat type.

#### Water Quality

Mining and dredging activities, poorly planned stockpiling and uncontrolled dumping of overburden, and chemical/fuel spills will cause reduced water quality for downstream users, increased cost for downstream water treatment plants and poisoning of aquatic life.

#### Ecological

Mining which leads to the removal of channel substrate, resuspension of streambed sediment, clearance of vegetation, and stockpiling on the streambed, will have ecological impacts. These impacts may have an effect on the direct loss of stream reserve habitat, disturbances of species attached to streambed deposits, reduced light penetration, reduced primary production, and reduced feeding opportunities.

3. Property values of homes/ranches near the site are nearly guaranteed to drop, causing substantial economic hardship on home owners in favor of "Big Business."

#### Example:

In Pepin County, the Great River Road National Scenic Byway overlooks Lake Pepin, a wide spot in the Mississippi River, and passes through picturesque communities on its way south.

“The quality of life and everyone’s property value depends on protecting the beauty down here,” county Supervisor Bill Mavity said.

“That’s what makes this place go.”

After a frac sand processing plant with a rail and barge loading facility was proposed along Lake Pepin, a civic group commissioned one of the few Wisconsin studies examining frac sand’s potential effects on tourism and property values in the area.

Phaneuf and a fellow economist, Dominic Parker at UW-Madison, looked at the effects of traffic congestion, noise and degraded air quality on property values.

The study did not use Pepin County data because of limited funding, so the results were not definitive. But it predicted that frac sand operations and transport could “significantly impair property values.”

Last June, the Pepin County Board passed an ordinance banning frac sand mining, processing and transport facilities along the Great River Road. The ordinance cited potential drops in property values as a reason.

Thank you for your consideration,

Adam E. Jaffe, Esq.  
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