



*Preserve Wild Santee*

September 14, 2015

Mr. Jim Bennett  
Mr. Robert Hingtgen  
County of San Diego  
Planning & Development Services  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Via Email

**RE: El Monte Sand Mining And Nature Preserve EIR Scope  
PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PD2015-RP-15-001, Log NO. PD2015-ER-98-14-016**

Dear Mr. Bennett and Mr. Hingtgen,

Preserve Wild Santee (PWS) is a long-time advocate for natural resources within the San Diego River watershed and contributed to the establishment of the San Diego River State Conservancy in 2002. PWS advocates for protection of resources that sustain people and wildlife. Please consider these comments on the Scope of the El Monte EIR.

PWS would like to see a clearly defined set of project goals that can be used to assist in the development and analysis of alternatives. Are the goals of this project primarily profit, restoration or a weighted balance between the two?

Restoration objectives should be clearly defined – especially since the dam of the river above the valley means that the river flood plain habitat will never function as it did prior to dam construction. The objectives of restoration and the means of achieving those natural functions should be carefully analyzed as the foundation for the project or any project alternative.

How rapidly can a project with the primary objective being restoration (that is clearly defined) be completed?

Since mining is intended to fund project restoration, what would a restoration only project alternative look like in terms of costs, time and impacts? What other sources exist for restoration funding?

PWS would like to see alternatives considered that reduce both the time and extent of landform disturbance, including an alternative that completely eliminates the mining component of the project.





*Preserve Wild Santee*

PWS would like to see alternatives considered that limit the mining component of the project to:

- 2 years or less.
- 5 years or less.

PWS hopes that clearly defined objectives, full disclosure of impacts, a reasonable range of alternatives and respect for the CEQA process will result in a positive outcome for people and wildlife in the El Monte Valley.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please place PWS on the DEIR distribution list.

Sincerely,

Van K. Collinsworth, M.A.  
Resource Analyst/Executive Director

