

**From:** [Marquez, Israel](#)  
**To:** [Jacobs, Christopher](#)  
**Cc:** [Aranda, Xochitl](#); [Quintero, Carlos](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#); [Paloma Aguirre](#); [Worlie, Paul](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [Shanley, Roarke E](#); [Wyatt, Donte T](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Yano, Roberto](#); [Marquez, Angel](#)  
**Subject:** [External] RE: [Ext.] Notice of Public Hearing for the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project - Sweetwater Authority Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 8:40:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning Mr. Jacobs ,

Thank you for your email, and please save this email for your records. In accordance with Resolution 84-8 As Amended, the proposed project is subject to a land use change. Based on the assumption that 214.14 acres will be involved in mining operations, the associated land use charge is currently estimated at \$590,131.82. This amount is subject to adjustment over time due to inflation and fluctuations in the ENR Index.

In follow-up to our previous communications regarding the Proposed Project, Sweetwater Authority (Authority) staff has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the County of San Diego's Responses to Comments. We continue to have significant concerns related to water quality, hydrology, and the Authority's operational ability—particularly the capacity to conduct water transfers.

For example, Response R-A3-2 states that “the on-site Sweetwater River channel design capacity has been increased to convey flows of 820 cubic feet per second (cfs) by maintaining the bed and lower portion of the existing banks of the trapezoidal channel at 3.7 feet high.” However, the Updated Drainage Analysis prepared by Chang Consultants (Appendix O) does not analyze or confirm this 820 cfs capacity. Instead, it indicates that the proposed 3.7-foot channel can only accommodate lower flows, and the 820 cfs storm event is neither mentioned nor evaluated in the study.

While we acknowledge that the highest flow recorded at the USGS Dehesa Gage during a water transfer in the past decade was 591 cfs, other higher flows have occurred independently of transfers. Notably, the February 14, 2019 event reached 820 cfs—yet this data point is absent from the analysis. The proposed channel design appears undersized relative to recent hydrologic conditions, raising concerns about its ability to withstand large storm events. As stated in our August 18, 2023 letter, historic flow data such as the 820 cfs event must be incorporated into the design to ensure both reliable water transfer operations and flood protection for surrounding areas.

Before the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors considers project approval, the Authority respectfully requests continued coordination with the County and the project proponent. It is essential that our concerns be fully addressed, including the provision of a channel design that safely accommodates both water transfers and storm flows under varying conditions.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss next steps.

Very respectfully,

Israel



**Israel Marquez**

Land and Environmental Manager



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**From:** Jacobs, Christopher <Christopher.Jacobs@sdcounty.ca.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025 3:45 PM

**To:** Jacobs, Christopher <Christopher.Jacobs@sdcounty.ca.gov>

**Subject:** [Ext.] Notice of Public Hearing for the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project

Greetings,

Attached please find the Notice of Public Hearing for the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project scheduled for the Board of Supervisors on 9-10-25 at the *County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway*, Room 310, San Diego, California 92101. The Board of Supervisors will consider an Appeal of the July 9, 2025, Planning Commission decision regarding the Cottonwood Sand Mine Major Use Permit (MUP) and Reclamation Plan. The appeal is to the Planning Commission decision that disapproved of the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project.

The Final Environmental Impact Report (EFIR) is posted on the County web site at <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/ceqa/MUP-18-023.html>. The Board of Supervisors may choose to certify the FEIR should they approve the Project (MUP + Reclamation Plan).

Sincerely,

**Chris Jacobs** (*he/him/his*)

Land Use/Environmental Planner III – Project Planning

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
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