



March 18, 2024

Shawna Anderson, AICP  
Principal Planner  
San Dieguito River Park JPA  
18372 Sycamore Creek Rd.  
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Ms. Anderson,

My name is Andrew Donner and I live in the Sandy Lane Community in Del Mar. My property at 3004 Sandy Lane abuts the San Dieguito River Mouth. You are cc'd on the enclosed letter that I sent to Chairperson Nora Vargas with SANDAG.

If you would like to discuss further I can be reached via the email address or cell number listed below.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Donner", is written over the "Sincerely yours," text.

Andrew Donner  
Email – [Andrew@rgglv.com](mailto:Andrew@rgglv.com)  
Cell – (702) 528-6111



March 18, 2024

Chairperson Nora Vargas  
SANDAG  
401 B St  
Suite 800,  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chairperson Vargas,

My name is Andrew Donner and I live in the Sandy Lane Community in Del Mar. My property at 3004 Sandy Lane abuts the San Dieguito River Mouth. Our Community received your letter dated September 8, 2023 written by SANDAG's staff who relied on desktop, simulated, hydrological modeling to try to convince us property owners at Sandy Lane that SANDAG's proposed new wetlands will barely have any detrimental impacts to the San Dieguito River mouth, channel or abutting properties. Respectfully, we disagree with this logic by virtue of actually seeing an increasingly, deteriorating condition in this exact location occurring now which is prior to your new wetlands being open that will only increase these flows. Some of these impacts are being caused by the addition of billions of gallons of water that were unexpected, including billions of gallons of fresh water being discharged from Lake Hodges to the San Dieguito River and from several, hundred-year storm events occurring in rapid succession. Symptoms of this stressed ecosystem are loss of beach, public safety impacts from a channelized, fast flowing river, and consistent threats to private property caused from both manmade and unprecedented climate change.

***We believe it is necessary to immediately establish a baseline of what the situation is today to appreciate how manmade activities coupled with climate change and a deteriorating dam infrastructure has created unintended results. This needs to occur before SANDAG opens the new wetlands and places more stress on the ecosystem.***

SANDAG's website claims that the tidal prism from the new wetlands would equate to 330,000,000 gallons per day ---- greater than Southern California Edison's wetlands restoration project at 160,000,000 gallons. For context, these two wetland projects combined will result in more water moving in and out of San Dieguito River than San Diego County residents use in a day. Did your computer models anticipate the recent addition of billions of gallons of fresh water that has been released from Lake Hodges over the last six weeks plus the unprecedented

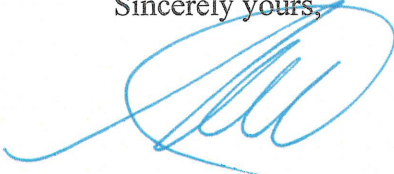
run-off entering the river from rain, flooding and large wave events battering our coastline when estimated impacts from the addition of your new wetlands to this habitat?

California's State Lands owns the revetment on the San Dieguito River west of Highway 1 and ultimately is required to maintain this important protective device for homes on the San Dieguito River channel and ocean front. Over the last several months, the channel and inlet has experienced increased scouring, heavy erosion and degradation from high velocity tidal flows. The lack of sediment transfer east of Highway 1 means less sand on the beach in the near future, with natural processes that bring sand north to south being depleted by the export of offshore sand resources pumped via pipeline north to Solana Beach today. Sand required by permit to be transferred to the beachfront that was excavated by Southern California Edison in the fall was gone in a few weeks, leaving the area without a natural sand buffer prior to the start of winter when it was most needed. Basing the health of an ecosystem on monitoring that takes place in a vacuum a few times a year is not a way to replicate true conditions.

We understand that SANDAG has a *legal agreement* with Southern California Edison that must contemplate impacts from the new wetlands, so we are requesting a copy of that via the Freedom of Information Act. We have invited the California Coastal Commission to convene a panel to study the current situation and advise how to make the situation more sustainable. We are also seeking baseline data that will allow future evaluation of liability if scouring and property loss continues in order to best identify the appropriate entity responsible.

We are inviting your support in this research to support our beach in perpetuity.

Sincerely yours,



Andrew Donner  
Email – Andrew@rgglv.com

cc:

Ms. Terry Gaasterland, Deputy Mayor, City of Del Mar, SANDAG Rep.  
Mr. Dwight Worden, Del Mar City Council – Chairperson, SANDAG Shoreline Preservation Committee  
Mr. Mark Tarrall, Project Manager, Dokken Engineering  
Ms. Shawna Anderson, AICP, Principal Planner, San Dieguito Riverpark JPA  
Mr. Drew Simpkin, Public Land Management Specialist, California State Lands Commission