

STEVE KNIGHT
25TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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March 29, 2016

The Honorable Michael Connor
Deputy Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Deputy Secretary Connor,

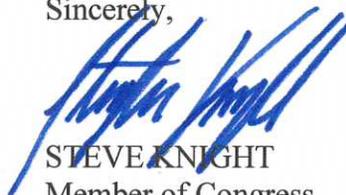
A few weeks ago, we visited on a phone call prior to the introduction of my bill, H.R. 4566, the Soledad Canyon Consistency Act. This bill would withdraw from mineral entry the area currently under contract for sand and gravel removal at the Soledad Canyon Sand & Gravel Mining Project Site.

I am aware that the Department of the Interior has issued a notice cancelling those contracts and that the decision has been appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Given those facts, I am requesting that you submit to me the Department's intentions, assuming your current decision is upheld through the appeals process. Will the mineral resources be offered again for bid?

My motive is to bring this longstanding issue in my congressional district to an end, and H.R. 4566 would do just that. However, I am concerned that any future Departmental actions proposing commercial use could further complicate an already complex issue.

I would appreciate a prompt reply to this request and I look forward to working with you and the Department to bring the Soledad Canyon to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,



STEVE KNIGHT
Member of Congress