

RAMONA BAND OF CAHUILLA

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"A SOVEREIGN NATION"

December 15, 2009

County of Riverside
Board of Supervisors
C/o Riverside County Clerk of the Board
4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 1147
Riverside, CA 92502-1147

Via email, facsimile, and USPS

Re: Specific Plan No. 342; General Plan Amendment No. 720; Circulation Element General Plan Amendment No. 721; Change of Zone No. 7055

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The Ramona Band of Cahuilla, a federally recognized Indian tribe, submits these comments with regards to proposed project/actions listed above. The comments submitted by the Ramona Band of Cahuilla are based on the Tribe's concerns for the protection of unique and irreplaceable cultural resources, such as Cahuilla village and burial sites and archaeological items that may be displaced by ground-disturbing work associated with any project within the aboriginal or shared homelands of the Cahuilla people.

The Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians is also concerned about the proper and lawful treatment of any cultural or ceremonial items, Native American human remains, or sacred items discovered during planning and/or development of the proposed project.

There are numerous and significant cultural resources found within the proposed project/actions' area of potential effect. To date, the Ramona Band of Cahuilla has been working as a consulting tribe with other affected Tribes, the developer, and the developer's archaeologists regarding the proposed project/actions, as the proposed project/actions have the potential to adversely impact important and significant resources the Tribes hold dear and wish to protect from further intrusions and impacts.

Considering that numerous and significant cultural resources are found within the area of potential effect and these invaluable resources are located within the aboriginal territory of many Tribes, including that of the Ramona Band of Cahuilla, we request that the County of Riverside consider and implement the following recommendations regarding cultural resources as conditions of approval of the proposed project/actions:

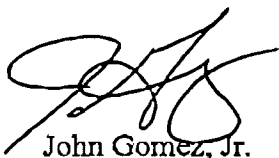
- 1) The development of a mitigation plan that specifically addresses the impact(s) the proposed project/actions may have on cultural resources within the area of potential effect. The mitigation plan shall be prepared through consultation with the potentially affected Tribes. The mitigation plan shall address the entirety of the proposed project/actions, including future projects/maps associated with the proposed project/actions. The mitigation plan shall be executed and filed with the County prior to the County or its agencies providing permits and/or approvals for any work associated with the proposed project/action.
- 2) The affected Tribes shall be allowed to monitor, at the developer or applicant's expense, any and all ground disturbing or other work which has the potential to impact cultural resources.
- 3) Development of a process/procedure for handling inadvertent discoveries.
- 3) The affected Tribes shall be allowed to assist with the design of future or new maps associated with the proposed project/actions.

The Ramona Band of Cahuilla also supports any other recommendations the County or other affected Tribes may provide which aim to protect and preserve the cultural resources within the proposed project/action's area of potential affect and which safeguard the rights of the affected Tribes to protect and preserve the cultural resources which may be impacted by the proposed project/actions.

The Ramona Band of Cahuilla appreciates this opportunity to work with the County of Riverside, on a government-to-government basis to address the Tribe's concerns regarding the invaluable and finite resources located within our aboriginal territory.

Please feel free to contact me at (951)941-4943 if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



John Gomez, Jr.
Project Coordinator, Ramona Band of Cahuilla

Cc: County of Riverside Archaeologist