



COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

26600 Mohave Road

Parker, Arizona 85344

Telephone: (928)-669-5822 Fax: (928) 669-5843

August 14, 2017

City of Hesperia
9700 Seventy Avenue
Hesperia, CA 92345

RE: GPA16-00002 AND CUP16-00009

Dear Mr. Ryan Leonard:

The Colorado River Indian Tribes' Tribal Historic Preservation Office ("CRIT THPO") has received your letter dated July 10, 2017, regarding the *proposed General Plan Amendment GPA16-00002 and CUP16-00009 for the construction of a fueling station, convenience store, car wash and a drive-thru restaurant in Hesperia, California.*

As a preliminary matter, the Colorado River Indian Tribes are a federally recognized Indian tribe comprised of over 4,200 members belonging to the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo Tribes. The almost 300,000 acre Colorado River Indian Reservation sits astride the Colorado River between Blythe, California and Parker, Arizona. The ancestral homelands of the Tribe's members, however, extend far beyond the Reservation boundaries. Significant portions of public and private lands in California, Arizona and Nevada were occupied by the ancestors of the Colorado River Indian Tribes' Mohave and Chemehuevi members since time immemorial. These landscapes remain imbued with substantial cultural, spiritual and religious significance for the Tribes' current members and future generations. For this reason, we have a strong interest in ensuring that potential cultural resource impacts are adequately considered and mitigated.

In particular, the Colorado River Indian Tribes are concerned about the removal of artifacts from this area and corresponding destruction of the Tribes' footprint on this landscape. As such, the Tribes request that all prehistoric cultural resources, including both known and yet-to-be-discovered sites, be avoided if feasible. If avoidance of the site is infeasible, then the Tribes request that the resources be left in-situ or reburied in a nearby area, after consultation. This language should be incorporated into enforceable mitigation measures.

In addition, we respond as follows:

- Given the potential impact of the project on important cultural resources, the Colorado River Indian Tribes request in-person government-to-government consultation. Please contact the CRIT THPO to discuss our concerns and schedule a meeting with Tribal Council.

CRIT THPO

Project Name: Rancho Road – Seventh Street Project

Date: August 14, 2017

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√ In the event any human remains or objects subject to provision of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or cultural resources such as sites, trails, artifacts are identified during ground disturbance, please contact the CRIT THPO within 48 hours.

_____ The Colorado River Indian Tribes request tribal monitoring of any ground disturbing activity as a condition of project approval. The Tribes request notification of any opportunities to provide tribal monitoring for the project.

_____ The Colorado River Indian Tribes do not have any specific comment on the proposed project and instead defer to the comments of other affiliated tribes.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions or concerns.

Please be informed that David Harper is no longer with this Department. Mr. Bryan Etsitty has been appointed the Acting-Director, thus all correspondence should be addressed to him.

Sincerely,

**COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

/s/Bryan Etsitty

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