



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

February 17, 2016

EMAILED THIS DATE TO: RRodriguez@cathedralcity.gov

Mr. Robert Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City
Planning Department
68700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

Re: Notice of Intent to Adopt a
Mitigated Negative Declaration for the
Whitewater River Bike Path Project
CUP 16-001

This letter is written in response to the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Whitewater River Bike Path Project CUP 16-001 (project). The proposed project consists of construction of an approximate 16-foot wide, 2.5-mile long concrete bike path and pedestrian path along the top of the existing western levee of the Whitewater River between Vista Chino on the north and Ramon Road on the south. At the Ramon Road terminus, the proposed bike path would continue west along the north side of Ramon Road for approximately 0.22 mile before ending at Crossley Road. The project will mostly occur within the District's right of way for the Whitewater River Right Bank Levee. The project is located within the city of Cathedral City, California.

The District has the following comments/concerns that should be addressed:

1. On Page 6 of the MND the document states "...the channel portion of the path will be bounded by a concrete stem wall (or equivalent) to be built by Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District." Please note that at present time, the District is still evaluating the necessity of such a wall to be constructed for flood control purposes. Therefore, the District makes no commitment that the wall will be constructed at any point in the future.
2. Page 6 of the MND also states "...the channel portion of the project may also include strategically placed benches and low intensity, low profile lighting fixtures, and possibly two to three water fountains." Please be advised that the District does allow the placement of amenities within the District's right of way on a case by case basis if they do not conflict with the operation and maintenance of the affected facility. However, the District does not typically allow the placement of utilities within our levees. Please coordinate the design and placement of all potential amenities with the District prior to the commencement of construction. Please also confirm that impacts related to potential accessory structures have been considered and adequately addressed in the environmental analysis.
3. Any work that involves District rights of way, easement, or facilities will require an encroachment permit from the District. Therefore, the District will likely be a CEQA responsible agency and any potential impacts to District facilities should be considered in the Initial Study. To obtain further information on encroachment permits or existing facilities, contact Amy McNeill of the Encroachment Permit Section at 951.955.1266.

Mr. Robert Rodriguez

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the MND. Please forward any subsequent environmental documents regarding the project to my attention at this office. Please refer any questions regarding this letter to Kevin Cunningham at 951.955.1526 or me at 951.955.8581.

Very truly yours,



KRIS FLANIGAN
Engineering Project Manager

cc: Amy McNeill

KCC:mcv
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