

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
WHITEWATER PRESERVE LEVEE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Whitewater Preserve Levee Replacement Project. The MND has been approved for public review by the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. Copies are available for review and comment at the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 112, Palm Desert, California 92260. Comments and recommendations on the adequacy of the environmental document may be filed at the aforementioned address during the public review period established for the project.

- 1. PROJECT:** Whitewater Preserve Levee Replacement Project

- 2. APPLICANT:** Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
Jim R. Karpiak
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 112
Palm Desert, California 92260

- 3. AGENT:** ELMT Consulting, Inc.
Attn: Travis McGill
2201 N. Grand Avenue #10098
Santa Ana, California 92711

- 4. LOCATION:** The project site is located north of Interstate 10 and west of State Route 62 in Whitewater, a designated place in Riverside County, California. The project site is depicted on the White Water quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map series in Sections 15 and 22 of Township 2 south, Range 3 east. Specifically, the project site is located on the Whitewater River, northwest of Palm Springs.

- 5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Project is for a replacement levee at the Whitewater Preserve for the purposes of continued flood protection for up to 100-year flood events. The parcel is designated Open Space and zoned Controlled Development Areas.

The top of the proposed levee has a finished surface elevation that measures about 3.5 to 5-feet above the water surface elevations identified in the river hydraulic models prepared for the project. A cross section of the proposed levee can be seen on the "Levee Concept A" exhibit. The levee will have a 16-foot wide road at the top for access and maintenance purposes. The levee will be constructed of soil cement with a width of 8-feet, and the river side of the levee will be faced with large rock material salvaged from the levee construction operations. The soil cement lining of the riverside face of the levee protects the levee from erosion during larger storm events, while the large rock facing minimizes the aesthetic impacts of the structure. The largest velocity in the river hydraulic models measured around 17-feet per second (fps) along the proposed extent of the levee. Velocities along the banks of

rivers typically do not measure as high as they do in the main channel of the river, where the 17-fps value in the provided results comes from.

- 6. ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:** The MND can be viewed at the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy office located at the address above, **by appointment only**; or on the Conservancy's web site at: <http://cvmc.ca.gov/>

Due to current COVID-19 protocols, no copies of the MND shall be available at any libraries at the moment.

- 7. REVIEW PERIOD:** December 4, 2020 – January 4, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
- 8. CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Jim Karpiak, Executive Director at (760) 776-5026 or jkarpiak@cvmc.ca.gov.

The MND has a review period of **30 days**, starting on **Friday November 4, 2020**, and ending on **Monday, January 4, 2021**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Planning and Research. Any written comments on the MND should be sent to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy at the address noted above, to the attention of: Jim Karpiak, Executive Director.

After the close of the public comment review period on the MND established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy's Board. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy within the review period, or to the Board during the public hearing.