



GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Robert Cheng

Subject: Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 Project in Indio Hills, Riverside County Notification of Consultation Opportunity pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 and Public Resources Code §21080.3.1

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is preparing an Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 Project (Project) in Indio Hills, Riverside County. CVWD invites your participation and consultation regarding any concerns related to Tribal Cultural Resources pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 52 and Public Resources Code (PRC) §21080.3.1, *Formal Notification of Decision to Undertake a Project, and Notification of Consultation Opportunity*.

CVWD's Environmental Services Department staff would like to meet with you – either in person or via teleconference – at your earliest convenience to discuss the proposed Project and AB 52 tribal consultation. Following the receipt of a Notification of Consultation Opportunity PRC §21080.3.1(d) provides California Native American tribes 30 days to request consultation regarding possible significant effects that implementation of the Project may have on Tribal Cultural Resources. CVWD will begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving the Tribe's request for consultation. The consultation may include a discussion concerning the environmental review necessary for the proposed Project, the presence and/or significance of Tribal Cultural Resources, the significance of the Project's impacts on Tribal Cultural Resources, and, if necessary, Project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the Tribe may recommend.

According to the State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Discussion Draft Technical Advisory: AB 52 and Tribal Cultural Resources in CEQA report (May 2015), the consultation process shall be considered concluded when either: 1) The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a Tribal Cultural Resource; or 2) A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached (PRC §21080.3.2[b]).

CVWD understands that Tribal information submitted to our agency shall be kept confidential (PRC §21082.3[c][I]). The purpose of AB 52 consultation is to obtain Tribal expertise on the subject Project area (PRC §21080.3.1[a]) via Tribal submittal of comments, information and/or design measures.

Included for your information is a brief description of the proposed Project and location, and Lead Agency contact person pursuant to PRC §21080.3.1(d).

Brief Description of the Proposed Project and Location:

The Project site is located within the unincorporated community of Indio Hills approximately 0.5 miles north of the intersection of 30th Avenue and Sunny Rock Road. Access into the Project site is provided by an unpaved and gated road located off of Sunny Rock Road. The Project site is currently developed with two 35- foot diameter, 100,000-gallon bolted-steel tanks, Reservoirs 4711-1 and 4711-2, and associated appurtenances and infrastructure, including an existing riprap revetment and perimeter chain-link fence. Over time, the two existing tanks, which were originally constructed in 1993 and 1999, have developed

moderate-to-severe corrosion along their bolt seams, as described in CVWD's *Reservoir Prioritization Report* (2016). These existing bolted-steel tanks no longer provide reliable water storage due to this general deterioration, corrosion, and minor leaks. CVWD's preliminary economic analysis determined that replacing the existing tanks with new welded-steel tanks would be more cost effective than rehabilitating the existing tanks.

Under the proposed Project, CVWD would construct two 1,000,000-gallon (1MG) aboveground welded-steel tanks (Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4) and subsequently demolish the existing 100,000-gallon aboveground bolted-steel tanks (Reservoirs 4711-1 and 4711-2), which were originally constructed in 1993 and 1999. The proposed Project would restore and improve water storage infrastructure and ensure reliable and sustainable domestic water supply and fire flow protection to CVWD's customers within the Sky Valley Domestic Water Production Zone / Indio Hills Pressure Zone, which serves the unincorporated community of Indio Hills.

The construction of the proposed Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 would include the following components:

- Excavation, grading, soil compaction, and construction of two 76-foot diameter by 5-foot deep foundations;
- Construction of two 1MG welded-steel tanks;
- Construction of all required aboveground and buried appurtenances (e.g., water meters, valves, 18-inch diameter connection to the existing Dillon Road Transmission Pipeline, etc.); and
- Construction of all required infrastructure (e.g., riprap revetment north/upstream of the new reservoirs, perimeter chain-link fence, etc.).

Following the construction and initial operation of proposed Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4, the two existing bolted-steel tanks (Reservoirs 4711-1 and 4711-2) and associated appurtenances and infrastructure would be demolished and removed from the Project site. This demolition would include the removal of existing aboveground meters, valves, and pipelines as well as the existing riprap revetment and perimeter chain-link fence. The buried pipelines associated with the existing tanks may be removed or abandoned in place.

Contact:

If you have any questions regarding the project or content of this letter, please contact Elizabeth Meyerhoff, Environmental Specialist, at (760) 398-2661 x2775 or via e-mail at emeyerhoff@cvwd.org.

Sincerely,

William Patterson

Environmental Supervisor

Enclosures:

Figure 1. Regional Vicinity

Figure 2. Proposed Reservoir Layout



May 21, 2021

[VIA EMAIL TO:emeyerhoff@cvwd.org]
Coachella Valley Water District
Ms. Elizabeth Meyerhoff
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Re: CVWD Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4

Dear Ms. Elizabeth Meyerhoff,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 project. The project area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI Reservation. However, it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. For this reason, the ACBCI THPO requests the following:

- *Formal government to government consultation under California Assembly Bill No. 52 (AB-52).
- *A cultural resources inventory of the project area by a qualified archaeologist prior to any development activities in this area.
- *A copy of the records search with associated survey reports and site records from the information center.
- *Copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with this project.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760)699-6956. You may also email me at ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net.

Cordially,

Lacy Padilla
Archaeologist
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS



03-011-2021-004

July 28, 2021

[VIA EMAIL TO:emeyerhoff@cvwd.org]
Coachella Valley Water District
Ms. Elizabeth Meyerhoff
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Re: Consultation for CVWD Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4

Dear Ms. Elizabeth Meyerhoff,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 project. The project area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI Reservation. However, it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. For this reason, the ACBCI THPO requests the following:

- * The THPO has no additional comments at this time.
- * Please provide the documents requested in our previous letter dated 5/21/21.
- * The THPO may have comments after reviewing the requested documents.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760)699-6907. You may also email me at ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net.

Cordially,

Pattie Garcia-Plotkin
Director
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS