Cultural Resources Investigation

East Side Dike Improvements

City of Indio, Riverside County, California **Prepared for:**

> Coachella Valley Water District 75-515 Hovley Lane East Palm Desert, California 92211

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ECORP Consulting, Inc. has assisted public and private land owners with environmental regulation compliance since 1987. We offer full service capability, from initial baseline environmental studies through environmental planning review, permitting negotiation, liaison to obtain legal agreements, mitigation design, construction supervision, and monitoring and compliance reporting.

Citation: ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP). 2017. Cultural Resources Investigation of the 24.7-Acre Project Area in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California. Prepared for the Coachella Valley Water District. November.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A cultural resources assessment was conducted for a 24.7-acre Project Area in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California (Figure 1). This assessment was conducted at the request of the Coachella Valley Water District, in support of proposed improvement activities for the East Side Dike. The Coachella Valley Water District is proposing to install concrete reinforcement to improve the dike's ability to divert water from the adjacent residential development. This study consisted of a cultural resources records search, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search, field survey of the entire 24.7-acre Project Area, and evaluation for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility for any identified resources.

An ECORP archaeologist conducted a cultural resources records search on October 10, 2017 using the California Historical Resources Information System, at the Eastern Information Center, at the University of California, Riverside. A search of the Sacred Lands File was requested from the NAHC and an intensive systematic pedestrian survey of the entire 24.7-acre Project Area was conducted. The records search results indicate that 17 cultural resources have been documented within one mile of the Project Area. No previously recorded resources are located within the Project Area. Twenty-five previous cultural resource investigations have been conducted within a one-mile radius between 1977 and 2017. One of the previous studies, conducted in 1977, overlaps the Project Area.

The results of the search of the Sacred Lands File by the NAHC did not indicate the presence of any Native American cultural resources within the vicinity of the Project Area. In addition to the search of the Sacred Lands File, the NAHC identified 29 Native American groups and individuals with historical and traditional ties to the Project Area.

During the cultural resources field survey, two historic-period features (CV-001 and CV-002) were identified in the Project Area. CV-001 is the historic-period East Side Dike. CV-002 is an historic-period utility pole. A Department of Parks and Recreation 523 record for each resource can be found in Appendix B. No prehistoric resources were identified during the cultural resources survey.

A cultural resources assessment was conducted for a 24.7-acre Project Area in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California. Two historic-period features (CV-001 and CV-002) were identified and documented within the Project Area. No prehistoric resources were identified within the Project Area.

Both CV-001 and CV-002 were evaluated using the eligibility criteria for the CRHR. The East Side Dike (CV-001) was originally constructed in 1948 as part of the Boulder Dam project. The dike was constructed to protect the NRHP-eligible Coachella Canal. CV-001 is not eligible for the CRHR as an individual resource, but is eligible under Criterion A as a contributing element to the Coachella Canal. As such, CV-001 is an Historical Resource as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CV-002 is a common utilitarian feature and is evaluated as not eligible under any CRHR eligibility criteria. CV-002 is not considered an Historical Resource under CEQA.

The proposed Project entails repairing and reinforcing the East Side Dike (CV-001). The proposed Project will not alter the historical association with the Coachella Canal, the agricultural development of the area, or the function supporting that association. Thus, although the Project will result in an impact to the

resource, that impact will not be significant because the Project will not materially impair the significance of the resource and will not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of an Historical Resource.

The potential to encounter additional historic-period resources is low. Although no prehistoric resources were identified during the survey, the prehistoric archaeological sensitivity of the Project Area is considered moderate due to the recorded presence of eight previously recorded prehistoric resources within one mile of the Project Area. In the event that any archaeological materials (e.g., stone tools, pottery, or milling-related artifacts like manos or metates, or historic-age resources such as cans or glass bottles) are encountered during ground-disturbing construction activities, all activities must be suspended in the vicinity of the find until the deposits are recorded and evaluated by a qualified archaeologist.

If human remains of any kind are found during construction, the requirements of CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5(e) and Assembly Bill 2641 shall be followed. According to these requirements, all construction activities must cease immediately and the Riverside County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist must be notified. The Coroner will examine the remains and determine the next appropriate action based on his or her findings. If the Coroner determines the remains to be of Native American origin, he or she will notify the NAHC. The NAHC will then identify the most likely descendants (MLD) to be consulted regarding treatment and/or reburial of the remains. If an MLD cannot be identified, or the MLD fails to make a recommendation regarding the treatment of the remains within 48 hours after gaining access to the remains, the property owner shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Assembly Bill
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CRHR	California Register of Historical Places
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
EIC	Eastern Information Center
I-10	Interstate 10
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
MLD	Most likely descendants
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PRC	Public Resources Code
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A cultural resources assessment was conducted for a 24.7-acre Project Area in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California (Figure 1). This assessment was conducted at the request of the Coachella Valley Water District, in support of proposed improvement activities associated with the East Side Dike. The Coachella Valley Water District is proposing to reinforce the current earthen dike with concrete to improve water diversion from the adjacent residential community. This study consisted of a cultural resources records search, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search, field survey of the entire 24.7-acre Project Area and evaluation for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility for any identified resources.

This report presents the methods and results of the cultural resources records search, Sacred Lands File Search, field survey, and CRHR evaluation, along with management recommendations. This Project was completed in compliance with the cultural resources requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

2.0 LOCATION AND SETTING

The Project Area includes a northwest-by-southeast-trending segment of the East Side Dike in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California. The Project Area is located approximately two miles north of Interstate-10 (I-10) near the base of the Indio Hills formation. The Project Area is located east of Washington Street and west of Madison Street at an elevation of approximately 70 feet above mean sea level. As shown on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute, Myoma, California topographic quadrangle map, (1972), the Project Area lies in the eastern half of Section 32, Township 3 South, Range 4 East of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian (Figure 1). Immediately south of the Project Area is a residential subdivision. To the north of the Project Area is undeveloped desert landscape primarily characterized by alluvial deposits. Regular seasonal flooding has heavily disturbed the Project Area.

The East Side Dike provides flood control for downstream waters of the Morongo Wash. The Project Area is located on the southern boundary of the Morongo Wash. The Project Area is located in the Coachella Valley in the western expanse of the Colorado Desert. The area is situated south of Pushawalla Canyon, southeast of Thousand Palms Canyon, and southwest of West Berdoo Canyon. Soil in the area consists of fluvial sediments of the Mission Creek flood plain and greater Morongo Wash, including blown sand, silty-sand, gravel, and cobbles with few larger granitic boulders. Vegetation within the Project Area consists mostly of, salt brush, and tamarisk. It is evident that the Project Area experiences numerous seasonal floods as well as off-highway vehicle recreational traffic.



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Figure 1. Project Vicnity and Location 2017-187.003 East Side Dike Improvement Project

3.0 CULTURAL SETTING

3.1 Prehistory

3.1.1 Colorado Desert Prehistory

Little archaeological material dating to the Early and Middle Holocene Periods (8,000 to 1,000 BC) is known from the Salton Trough area of the Colorado Desert. The only indications of use of this area during this long period of time consist of large bifacial dart points found on relic lake beds of Lake Cahuilla and on desert pavement. These include projectile point types common in the Mojave Desert such as Lake Mojave, Pinto, and Elko (Schaefer and Laylander 2007). The sparse occupation during the middle Holocene may be related to extremely arid climatic conditions and of the lack of water in the Salton Trough (absence of Lake Cahuilla). The Salton Sea Naval Test Base study (Apple et al. 1997) has produced evidence for Archaic occupation on the west side of the Salton Trough. Pinto series and Elko series projectile points recovered during investigations at the Test Base yielded a date of 5,840 ±250 years before present (Apple et al. 1997). These data suggest the desert area of southeastern California was not entirely abandoned during the Desert Archaic Period. While the population of the region was probably sparse, small bands of mobile Desert Archaic people most likely moved among areas where water (at springs) and plant food resources were available.

A few temporary camps with living surfaces and hearths dating to the period 1,000 BC to AD 700 (Late Archaic Period) are located away from the lake bed in canyons and in the upper Coachella Valley above the maximum lake level. However, two temporary camps dating to the first millennium BC that contain fish and waterfowl bone in the Coachella Valley along the maximum Lake Cahuilla shoreline indicate there may have been a lake stand during this period (Schaefer and Laylander 2007:249).

Higher population and greater numbers of sites appear to correlate with the presence of Lake Cahuilla, which filled the Salton Trough when water flowed into the trough from the Colorado River. When water ceased to flow from the river, the lake dried, markedly reducing the availability of resources. Occupation of the Salton Trough during the Late Prehistoric Period (AD 700 to Contact) correlates with three cycles of inundation and desiccation in Lake Cahuilla that occurred between AD 1200 and 1680 (Schaefer and Laylander 2007). When the lake was present, lacustrine resources such as fish, shellfish, and waterfowl were available. When the lake was absent, very few resources were available and human population was low. Lake Cahuilla was much larger than the current Salton Sea. Whereas the current Salton Sea shoreline is about 70m (230 feet) below sea level, the maximum Lake Cahuilla shoreline was about sea level (Schaefer and Laylander 2007: Figure 16.1). To the northwest, in the Coachella Valley, the intermittent Whitewater River entered Lake Cahuilla near Point Happy between what is now Indian Wells and Indio. Several Late Prehistoric archaeological sites have been investigated along the ancient Lake Cahuilla shoreline in this area. To the south, the entire Imperial Valley between East Mesa and West Mesa was underwater when Lake Cahuilla was present.

During the Late Prehistoric Period, the northern part of the Salton Trough (northern Salton Sea area and the Coachella Valley) was occupied by ancestors of the Takic-speaking Cahuilla (Schaefer and Laylander 2007: Figure 16.1). They also occupied the adjacent Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains. Large multi-

seasonal residential bases were occupied along the ancient shorelines in the Coachella Valley when Lake Cahuilla was present. These sites contain abundant fish bone, waterfowl bone, and shell from freshwater shellfish. Animal and plant remains indicated use of both lowland and upland resources. Floral remains indicated use of these sites during all four seasons. Cottonwood and Desert Side-Notched arrow points, along with buff ware ceramics and Late Prehistoric marine shell beads, indicate occupation during the Late Prehistoric Period (Warren 1984:407). These sites were likely occupied during the three Lake Cahuilla lake stands between AD 1200 and 1680. The final desiccation is marked by 15 episodes of fish trap construction (along 15 successively lower shorelines) as the lake receded (Warren 1984:407).

Mexican accounts document Cahuilla irrigation agriculture in the Coachella Valley during the historic period. Corn, pumpkins, and melons were grown using small scale irrigation systems (ditches/dams and pot irrigation from walk-in wells). There is little or no archaeological evidence (macrobotanical remains or pollen) for the use of domesticates from prehistoric components. The Cahuilla could have obtained domesticates during the early historic period from the Spanish missions near the coast or from the Yumans to the south (Schaefer and Laylander 2007:253-254).

3.2 Ethnohistory

The Project Area is located in the City of Indio, in the western margin of the Colorado Desert, in the area occupied by the Cahuilla Native American group.

3.2.1 Cahuilla

Cahuilla territory was bounded on the north by the San Bernardino Mountains, on the east by the Orocopia Mountains, on the west by the Santa Ana River, the San Jacinto Plain and the eastern slope of the Palomar Mountains, and on the south by Borrego Springs and the Chocolate Mountains (Bean 1978).

The diversity of the territory provided the Cahuilla with a variety of foods. It has been estimated that the Cahuilla exploited more than 500 native and nonnative plants (Bean and Saubel 1972). Acorns, mesquite, screw beans, piñon nuts, and various types of cacti were used. A variety of seeds, wild fruits and berries, tubers, roots, and greens were also a part of the Cahuilla diet. A marginal agricultural existence provided corn, beans, squashes, and melons. Rabbits and small animals were also hunted to supplement the diet. During high stands of Ancient Lake Cahuilla, fish, migratory birds, and marshland vegetation were also taken for sustenance and utilitarian purposes (Bean 1978).

Structures within permanent villages ranged from small brush shelters to dome-shaped or rectangular dwellings. Villages were situated near water sources, in the canyons near springs, or on alluvial fans at humanmade walk-in wells (Bean 1972). The villages of Palm Springs, pánik, and wáquina were located along the Whitewater River (Bean 1978). Mortuary practices entailed cremation of the dead. Upon a person's death, the body was bound or put inside a net and then taken to a place where the body would be cremated. Secondary interments also occurred. A mourning ceremony took place about a year after a person's death. During this ceremony, an image of the deceased was burned along with other goods (Lando and Modesto 1977; Strong 1929).

Precontact Cahuilla population has been estimated as low as 2,500 to as high as 10,000. At the time of first contact with Europeans, around 1774, the Cahuilla numbered approximately 6,000. Although they were the first to come into contact with the Cahuilla, the Spanish had little to do with those of the desert region. Some of the Cahuilla who lived in the plains and valleys west of the desert and mountains, however, were missionized through the *asistencia* located near present day San Bernardino. Cahuilla political, economic, and religious autonomy was maintained until 1877 when the United States government established Indian reservations in the region. Protestant missionaries came into the area to convert and civilize the Native American population. During this era, traditional cultural practices, such as cremation of the dead, were prohibited. Today, the Cahuilla reside on eight separate reservations in southern California, located from Banning in the north to Warner Springs in the south and from Hemet in the west to Thermal in the east (Bean 1978).

3.3 History

The Project Area is located within the northern portion of the Salton Sink region within the Coachella Valley. The history of the Salton Sink region since the time of European contact (late 1700s) is characterized by several themes, including exploration, transportation, and irrigation and creation of the Salton Sea. Each of these contributed to the growth and developments of communities in the region, including Indio, are discussed below.

Exploration

The first exploration or crossing of the area by Europeans occurred in 1772 when Don Pedro Fages, the Spanish military governor of California, traveled east from San Diego to an Indian settlement located about 12 miles west of the current southwestern shore of the Salton Sea. Fages' expedition then traveled northwest along the western edge of the Colorado Desert to the Cajon Pass and continued on to San Luis Obispo. Two years later, the same Indian village west of the Salton Sea was visited by an expedition led by Captain Juan Bautista de Anza, who called the settlement San Sebastian. Anza was traveling west from present-day Arizona in an attempt to find an overland route from Old Mexico across the desert to the Pacific Ocean and the missions of Alta California. From San Sebastian, Anza led his party northwest across the Santa Rosa Mountains and eventually to Mission San Gabriel, which had been established three years earlier in 1771 (Hoyt 1948; Dowd 1960; Pourade 1971; Bannon 1974; Castillo 1978).

No trips through the Salton Sink region are mentioned in official records for several decades. By the Mexican Period (beginning in 1821) mail was being carried by Maricopa Indian messengers between Sonora and the California coast, via the northern Colorado Desert and the San Gorgonio Pass. During roughly the same period, from 1815 to the 1830s, Indians from San Gabriel Mission made annual trips into the Salton Sink to collect salt (Hoyt 1948; Fitch 1961; Johnston 1977; Nordland 1977).

In 1825, Captain Jose Maria Romero led a small party from the Los Angeles area through the San Gorgonio Pass and across the Coachella Valley east to Blythe in search of a transportation route from the Los Angeles/San Diego area to Arizona. Once reaching the Colorado River, they turned south towards Yuma. After the journey, a southern route, which ran directly from Yuma to San Diego via the present-day site of Brawley, was deemed preferable to the San Gorgonio-Blythe route and the "Southern Route" became the official road from Sonora to Alta California (Hoyt 1948; Johnston 1977; Nordland 1977; Pourade 1971).

Transportation

During the Gold Rush of the late 1840s and early 1850s, thousands of prospectors and other immigrants came to California by the Southern Route. Semi-weekly stage service by the Butterfield Overland Mail Company, crossing Imperial Valley from Yuma to San Diego and Los Angeles, was begun along this route in 1858 (Dowd 1960; Fitch 1961).

In 1862, gold was discovered near Blythe, creating the need for a direct route eastward from California to Arizona. In response to this need, William D. Bradshaw used existing roads to travel from Los Angeles to Dos Palmas Oasis near the present northeastern shore of the Salton Sea. From there, Bradshaw's party crossed the Orocopia and Chuckwalla Mountains and followed ancient Indian trails east using a map drawn for them by Cabazon, a Cahuilla chief, reaching the Colorado River just northeast of Blythe (Johnston 1977; Ross 1992).

The Bradshaw Trail was the main means of communication between southern California and the eastern part of the United States until the completion in 1883 of the Southern Pacific Railroad from Los Angeles to Houston, Texas via Indio, Yuma, Tucson, and El Paso. During the last years of the Civil War the Bradshaw Trail was the only stage route operating into and out of southern California. By the 1880s, however, passenger coaches were discontinued in favor of the railroad, and commerce took the form predominantly of express and mail contracts carried by mule trains and freight wagons. The Bradshaw trail was used as a freight route until the twentieth century, and even accommodated automobile travel until the highway that eventually became I-10 was built, farther to the north in the early part of the twentieth century (Johnston 1977; Ross 1992).

Irrigation and Creation of the Salton Sea

Attempts to irrigate the Salton Sink region began as early as the 1850s but little progress was made until 1900 when work was started on the Imperial Canal. The canal was built to bring water from the Colorado River to the Imperial Valley and started at a diversion point near Pilot Knob, one mile north the U.S.-Mexico border. It ran south into Mexico to avoid extensive sand dunes west of Yuma and then turned northwest to re-enter the United States at Calexico. Water was flowing through this canal to the Imperial Valley by 1902 (Cory 1915; Kennan 1917; Dowd 1960; Fitch 1961). From little or no cultivation in 1900, agriculture in the Salton Sink area grew to 120,000 acres under cultivation by January of 1905. In the same time period, the population of the area grew from 2,000 to over 10,000. The demand for irrigation meant that all efforts were focused on keeping the water flowing, leaving maintenance as a low priority. Proposed levees to protect the canal were never built; however, a new intake to the canal from the Colorado River was built in Mexico just south of the U.S.-Mexico border to replace the previous canal head, which had become clogged with silt (Kennan 1917; Fitch 1961).

During the winter of 1904 to 1905, a series of five floods caused the Colorado River to break through the new temporary intake and caused the discharge of the entire river to pour into the Salton Sink, marking the creation of the Salton Sea. It was two years before the discharge was under control. The surface of the

Salton Sea was at its highest point, approximately 198 feet below sea level, covering about 470 square miles with a maximum depth of 70 feet deep. Evaporation soon began to lower the surface to its current elevation of approximately 230 feet below sea level. Irrigation runoff and inflow from the Alamo and New rivers kept the Salton Sea from evaporating further (Cory 1915; Kennan 1917; Fitch 1961; Duke 1974; Woerner 1989).

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) was established in July 1911, covering an area of 817 square miles. Between 1916 and 1923, IID purchased the entire canal system and the network of distribution canals within the Imperial Valley. The Coachella Valley Water District was formed in 1918 and soon began to work with IID to plan and promote a new canal located entirely within the United States to irrigate both valleys. The All-American Canal was completed from the Colorado River to the Imperial Valley in 1942. By 1948, a branch of it called the Coachella Canal was extended to bring water to the Coachella Valley (Cory 1915; Dowd 1960; Fitch 1961; Nordland 1977, 1978). In 1948, the East Side Dike was constructed to protect the Coachella Canal from potential damage due to seasonal flooding. The United States Bureau of Reclamation engineered and built the dike using loan funds approved by voters in areas irrigated by the Coachella Canal. Currently the Coachella Valley Water District is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the dike. (Coachella Valley Water District 2001).

Cities and Settlements

In the nineteenth century, the major settlement in the area was Indio. In 1870, a San Bernardino County well was drilled near an existing Indian well, which gave the settlement its first name, Indian Wells. The well was used as a watering stop on the Bradshaw Trail, and in August of 1876 became a stop on the Southern Pacific Railroad, which was then extending its line from Los Angeles toward Yuma. The settlement was renamed Indio the next year, possibly because of the existence of a small Cahuilla village nearby. A plat map for the townsite of Indio was filed with the San Diego County Recorder in 1888. In 1890, the U.S. Department of Agriculture imported the first date palms to America, and many of the seedlings were planted near Indio. The town, considered the date capital of the United States, has been the site of the U.S. Date and Citrus Station since 1907, when it was moved from Mecca due to the rising Salton Sea. Indio hosted the National Date Festival in 1921 and 1922. The Date Festival was discontinued until 1938, when it was combined with the Riverside County Fair and became an annual event. The City of Indio was incorporated in 1930 (Fitch 1961; De Stanley 1966; Pepper 1973; Patterson 1977; Nixon 1978).

4.0 METHODS

4.1 Records Search Methods

An ECORP archaeologist conducted a cultural resources records search on October 10, 2017 using the California Historical Resources Information System, at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), University of California, Riverside. The EIC is the official repository of cultural resources reports and site records for several counties in California, including Riverside. The purpose of the records search was to determine the extent and location of previous surveys, previously identified prehistoric or historic archaeological site locations, architectural resources, historic properties, cultural landscapes, or ethnic resources within a one-mile radius of the Project Area. Materials reviewed included survey and evaluation reports, archaeological

site records, historic maps, and the Historic Property Data File for Riverside County which includes resources listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), CRHR, California Points of Historical Interest, California Historical Landmarks, and National Historic Landmarks. Historic-period aerial photographs were also reviewed as a part of this study.

4.2 Sacred Lands File Search Methods

A search of the Sacred Lands File by the NAHC in Sacramento, California was requested in October 2017. This search was requested to determine whether there are sensitive or sacred Native American resources in the vicinity of the Project Area that could be affected by the proposed Project. The NAHC was also asked to provide a list of Native American groups that have historic or traditional ties to the Project Area who may have knowledge about the Project Area. It should be noted that this does not constitute consultation in compliance with Senate Bill 18 or Assembly Bill (AB) 52. A copy of all correspondence between ECORP and the NAHC is provided in Appendix A.

4.3 Field Survey Methods

Field work was conducted on October 17, 2017. Field work consisted of an intensive systematic pedestrian survey of the entire 24.7-acre Project Area by ECORP archaeologist Andrew Myers. For all areas surveyed, parallel transects were walked at 15-m intervals. Cultural resources were recorded and mapped using Collector for ArcGIS, a cloud-based geospatial software developed by Environmental Systems Research Institute. Notes and photographs were taken on the environmental setting and disturbances within the Project Area. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 records were prepared for newly discovered finds; a copy of the DPR records are provided in Appendix B.

To capture existing site conditions and feature measurements, an Unmanned Aerial System was utilized to capture overlapping aerial images of the entire Project Area. The photos were used to stitch together a current high-resolution ortho-rectified image of the entire Project Area. The resulting ortho-photo was used to compare measurements and obtain existing site characteristics.

4.4 Evaluation Methods

Two resources were identified within the Project Area (CV-001 and CV-002) and were evaluated for eligibility for the CRHR. The four standard eligibility criteria (Table 1) and seven elements of integrity (Table 2) were applied for making the evaluation for CRHR eligibility.

4.4.1 California Register Eligibility Criteria.

The CRHR was legislated in 1992 (Public Resources Code [PRC] §§ 5020.1, 5020.4, 5020.7, 5024.1, 5024.5, 5024.6, 21084 and 21084.1). Its implementing regulations are in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Chapter 11.5. The purpose of the CRHR is to act as "an authoritative listing and guide to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens in identifying existing historical resources of the state and to indicate which resources deserve to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change" (CCR Title 14 § 4850.1). An historical resource as defined by the PRC "includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or

archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California" (PRC § 5020.1 q). A substantial adverse change as defined by the PRC constitutes "demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of an historical resource would be impaired" (PRC § 5020.1 q).

CEQA further establishes that "a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC § 21084.1). Therefore, the resource needs to be evaluated using CRHR eligibility criteria to determine whether it is an Historical Resource. If it is an Historical Resource, impacts to it may be considered significant on the environment. There are four criteria for determining eligibility for the CRHR (Table 1)

Table 1. Criteria for Inclusion of a Property on the California Register of Historical Resources					
Criterion	Association	Characteristic			
1	Event	It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.			
2	Person	It is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.			
3	Design/ Construction	It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.			
4	Information Potential	It has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.			

Sources: California DPR 1998 CCR Title 14 § 4852

In addition to historical significance, a property must have integrity to be eligible for the CRHR. Integrity is the property's ability to convey its demonstrated historical significance. Seven individual elements comprise integrity (Table 2). It is not required that an historical resource display all of these qualities.

Table 2. Qualities of Integrity Related to Eligibility for the California Register of Historical Resources				
Quality	Description			
Location	The place the historic property was constructed or the historic event occurred.			
Design	The combination of elements creating the property's form, plan, space, structure, and style.			
Setting	The physical environment of the historic property/			
Materials	The physical elements combined at a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.			
Workmanship	The physical evidence of the craft of a particular culture or people during any given period.			
Feeling	The property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.			
Association	The direct link between an important historic event or person and the property			

Sources: California DPR 1998 CCR Title 14 §4852

Some resources are listed on the CRHR automatically (California DPR 1998). These include:

- Properties that are listed on the NRHP;
- Properties that have been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP whether by the Keeper of the National Register or through a consensus determination; and
- California Historical Landmarks from Number 777 on.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Records Search Results

Overall, 25 cultural resources investigations have been conducted within a one-mile radius of the Project Area between 1977 and 2017. Of these, one overlaps a portion of the Project Area. The records search indicated that the northwest portion of the Project Area was surveyed by Richard Weaver of the University of California Archaeological Research Unit in 1977. Mr. Weaver did not identify any resources within the current Project Area. Details of all 25 cultural resources surveys conducted within one mile of the Project Area are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Previous Investigations Within One Mile of the Project Area					
Report Number	Author(s)	Report Title	Year	Overlap Project Area	
RI-00220	Cowan, Richard A., and Kurt Wallof	Interim Report Field Work and Data Analysis: Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Southern California Edison Palo Verde-Devers 500Kv Transmission Line	1977	No	
RI-00221	Carrico , Richard A., Dennis K. Quillen and Dennis Gallegos	Cultural Resources Inventory and National Register Assessment of the Southern California Edison Palo Verde to Devers Transmission Line Corridor (California Portion)	1982	No	
RI-00284	Weaver, Richard A.	Cultural Resources Identification – Sundesert Nuclear Project	1977	Yes	
RI-00723	Swenson, James D.	Environmental Impact Evaluation: An Archaeological Assessment of Specific Portion of Improvement District No. 58, Coachella Valley County Water District, Riverside County, California	1979	No	
RI-00734	Swenson, James D.	Environmental Impact Evaluation: An Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant Site in Improvement District 58, Coachella Valley County Water District, Riverside County, California (NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section4, T5S R7E, SBBM)	1979	No	
RI-RI-01513	Love, Bruce, Adrian Sanchez Moreno, and Michael Hogan	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report, Granite Construction Surface Mining Permit No. 176, Revision No. 1, near The Community of Myoma, Riverside County, California	2000	No	

Table 3. Previous Investigations Within One Mile of the Project Area						
Report Author(s)		Report Title	Year	Overlap Project Area		
RI-02181	Parr, Robert E.	An Archaeological Assessment of the Adams 34 Ranch in the Coachella Valley, Riverside County, California	1987	No		
RI-02513	De Munck, Victor	Cultural Resources Assessment of Massey Sand and Gravel Pits, Indio California	1989	No		
RI-02990	Love, Bruce	Cultural Resources Assessment: GPA 287, Oak Shadows, Myoma, Riverside County	1990	No		
RI-02991	Love, Bruce, Bia "Tom" Tang, Daniel Ballester, Katheryn Bouscaren, and Adrian Sanchez Moreno	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Indian Hills Ranch, Near the City of Indio, Riverside County, California	2000	No		
RI-03055	Swope, Karen and Kevin Hallaran	An Archaeological Assessment of Jascorp/Smith Property, APN 605-160-018 and -019 Located Near Myoma in Riverside County, California	1990	No		
RI-03330	Rosen, Martin	Ford Material Site: Negative Archaeological Survey Report – First Addendum	1989	No		
RI-03753	Keller, Jean	A Phase II Archaeological Investigation of CA-RIV- 63 and CA-RIV-4214, Specific Plan 281	1994	No		
RI-03928	Collins, Edward G. and Jay Von Werlhof	Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment of the Indio 230Kv Transmission Loop Alternate Route #1		No		
RI-03987	Alexandrowicz, Stephen J.	Historical Archaeology of a Desert Homestead in the Vicinity of Myoma, Riverside County, California	1996	No		
RI-04031	Dillon, Brian D.	Cultural Resources Evaluation, Impact Analysis and Mitigation Plan for the Coachella Valley Water DistrictWRP-7 Expansion Project, Riverside County, California	1997	No		
RI-06448	Tang, Bai "Tom", Michael Hogan, Matthew Wetherbee and John J. Eddy	Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Tentative Parcel Map No. 32021, In an Unincorporated Area near Indio, Riverside, County, California	2004	No		
RI-07156	Duke, Curt	Cultural Resources Assessment for Cingular Wireless Facility No. SB 243-01 Unincorporated Riverside County, California	2003	No		
RI-07201	Duke, Curt	Cultural Resources Assessment: Cingular Wireless, Facility No. SB 243-20, Indio, Riverside County, California	2003	No		
RI-08279	Billat, Lorna	Collocation ("Co') Submission Packet, FCC Form 621, Project Number LA3665A	2009	No		
RI-08981	DeCarlo, Matthew M., Scott C. Justus and William T.	Summary Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Proposed Southern California Edison Devers-Palo	2013	No		

Table 3. Previous Investigations Within One Mile of the Project Area					
Report Number	eport Author(s) Report Title		Year	Overlap Project Area	
	Eckhardt	Verde 2 500kV Transmission Line Project, Riverside County, California			
RI-09047	McGinnis, Patrick, Rachel Droessler, and Stacie Wilson	Cultural Resources Investigation Class III Report for the Path 42 Transmission Line Project Riverside County, California	2013	No	
RI-09451	Ward, Christine and Scott H. Kremkau	Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Southern California Gas Company Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan Line 2000C Hydrotest Project, Riverside County, California	2015	No	
RI-09491	Ward, Christine and Scott H. Kremkau	Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Southern California Gas Company Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan Line 2001W-C Hydrotest Project, Riverside County, California	2015	No	
RI-09837	Mengers, Douglas W. and Shannon E. Foglia	Class III Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Proposed Southern California Edison Company's Devers-Colorado River No. 1 Transmission Line Rating Remediation Project Riverside County, California	2017	No	

The records search results show that no previously recorded resources are located within the Project Area. However, a total of 17 previously recorded resources are located within one mile of the Project Area. Of these, nine are historic-period resources while the remaining eight are prehistoric-period resources. The prehistoric-period resources consist mostly of pottery sherds and pottery fragments. The historic-period resources include a mix of refuse scatters, roadway alignments, and infrastructure.

Table 4. Previously Recorded Resources Within One Mile of the Project Area							
Site Number (Trinomial)	Primary Number	Recorder and Year	Age/Period	Description	Overlap Project Area		
CA-RIV-0063	P33-000063	Keller, J. (1994), White, Laurie (1991), Smith (1953)	Prehistoric	Pottery Fragments and Lithics	No		
CA-RIV-3669	P33-003669	deMunck, Victor C.	Prehistoric	Trail Segment	No		
CA-RIV-4214	P33-004214	White, Robert (1991), Keller, Jean A. (1994)	Prehistoric	Pottery Fragments	No		
CA-RIV-4808	P33-004808	Cecil, Radek and Frank Dittmer (1992)	Historic	Refuse Scatter	No		
CA-RIV-4809	P33-004849	Cecil, Radek and Frank Dittmer (1992), Love, Bruce and Bai "Tom" Tang (1996)	Historic	Refuse Scatter	No		
CA-RIV-5492	P33-005543	Collins, Edward (1995)	Prehistoric	Rock Alignment and Trail	No		

Table 4. Previously Recorded Resources Within One Mile of the Project Area							
Site Number (Trinomial)	Primary Number	Recorder and Year	Age/Period	Description	Overlap Project Area		
				Segment			
N/A	P33-008410	Smallwood, Josh (2015), Brock, J. (1998)	Historic	Road Alignment	No		
CA-RIV-6501	P33-009761	Ballester, Daniel (2000)	Prehistoric	Milling Site	No		
N/A	P33-013565	Way, K.R. and Lynne Murone-Dunn (2004)	Prehistoric	Pottery Fragments	No		
N/A	P33-015035	Justus, S., B. Wilson, A. Giacinto and Others (2010)	Historic	Transmission Corridor	No		
CA-RIV-8022	P33-015075	Goodman, J. and Mouriquand, L.	Prehistoric	Pottery Fragments	No		
CA-RIV-12227	P33-024700	Natoli, A.	Historic	Road Alignment	No		
CA-RIV-12228	P33-024701	Natoli, A.	Historic	Road Alignment	No		
CA-RIV-12229	P33-024702	Natoli, A.	Historic	Road Alignment	No		
N/A	P33-024703	Ward, Chris	Prehistoric	Pottery Fragment	No		
N/A	P33-024722	Bouscaren, Chuck and Mike Mirro	Historic	Pipeline	No		
N/A	P33-026493	Thomson, Heather and Erica Maier	Historic	Water Storage	No		

A review of historic-period maps and documents indicate that the East Side Dike was constructed in 1948 by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. (United States Bureau of Reclamation 1947) The 1904 Indio USGS 1:250000 topographic map indicates a Southern Pacific Railway alignment approximately two miles south of the Project Area near the current alignment of I-10. The 1958 Myoma USGS 1:24000 topographic quadrangle indicates an underground pipeline was installed approximately 0.5 mile north of the Project Area. This pipeline is also recorded as historic-period resource P33-024722 (see table 4). Historical aerial photography from 1972 shows agricultural land use south of the Project Area and undeveloped desert landscape to the north; no structures or other obvious developments are visible in the vicinity of the Project Area (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 2017).

The Historic Property Data File for the City of Indio and Riverside County was searched and revealed that there are no resources listed on the NRHP or CRHR, and there are no California Points of Historical Interest, California Historical Landmarks, or National Historic Landmarks within or near the Project Area.

5.2 Sacred Lands File Search Results

The results of the search of the Sacred Lands File by the NAHC did not indicate the presence of any Native American Sacred Lands within one mile of the Project Area. In addition to the search of the Sacred Lands

File, the NAHC identified 29 Native American groups and individuals with historical and traditional ties to the Project Area. A copy of the NAHC results letter is provided in Appendix A.

5.3 Field Survey Results

The Project Area consists primarily of a shaped earthen dike and undeveloped desert playa. At the time of the cultural resources field survey, ground visibility was approximately 95 percent. The sediments appear disturbed, as the Project Area has experienced numerous seasonal floods. The area experiences moderate recreational activity, as multiple wheeled vehicle tracks are present. Quad- and standard-sized vehicle tracks exist throughout the Project Area.

During the cultural resources field survey, two historic-period features (CV-001 and CV-002) were identified in the Project Area. A DPR 523 record and location map for each find can be found in Appendix B. The results of the field survey and recording are discussed below. No prehistoric resources were identified during the cultural resources survey.



Figure 2. East Side Dike, View to the Southeast



Figure 3. East Side Dike, View to the West

5.3.1 CV-001

CV-001, the East Side Dike, is an historic-period earthen detention dike. The Bureau of Reclamation originally constructed the dike in 1948. The Dike ranges in height from approximately 4 feet above ground level to approximately 10 feet above ground level. The top, or spine, of the dike consists of a singlewide access road measuring approximately 25 feet in width. The northern slope of the dike (upstream) measures approximately 35 feet from the top edge of the dike. The southern slope (downstream) measures approximately 30 feet from the top edge of the dike. Both the northern and southern slopes average approximately 35 degrees in pitch.

5.3.2 CV-002

CV-002 is an historic-period site consisting of one approximately 25-foot-high wooden utility pole. The pole contains a 1967 date stamp with "American Timber and Trading Company" embossed around the perimeter.

5.4 Evaluation Results

5.4.1 CV-001

CV-001, the East Side Dike, is an historic-period earthen detention dike originally built by the United States Bureau of Reclamation in 1948. The dike was constructed as a protection measure to minimize potential damages to the Coachella Canal. The Coachella Canal has previously been evaluated as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for its role in the development of agriculture in the Coachella Valley and as a contributing element of the Boulder Canyon Project, which includes the All-American Canal, Boulder Dam, and the Imperial Dam. It is also eligible under Criterion C as an example of irrigation canal construction from the 1930s and 1940s (Sanka and Irish 2016). Resources eligible for the NRHP are considered Historical Resources for the purposes of CEQA. As an individual resource, the East Side Dike does not have a direct association with the function of the Coachella Canal (water conveyance), nor does it have any significant association individually with the agricultural developments in the Coachella Valley. However, the East Side Dike was constructed at the time of the Coachella Canal for the sole purpose of protecting the Coachella Canal from potential flooding (Coachella Valley Water District 2001). Because of this, it shares the historical association with the agricultural development of the area. It also continues to serve a function supporting that association as well as the significant association of the Coachella Canal and the Boulder Canyon Project. Therefore, the East Side Dike is eligible under CRHR Criterion 1 (significant historical events) as a contributing element to the Coachella Canal, but not as an individual resource.

The East Side Dike is not associated with specific individuals or groups of people significant in history. Although the Coachella Canal is eligible for the NRHP, it is not eligible for any association with the lives of historically important persons. Therefore, the dike is not eligible for the CRHR under Criterion 2, either individually or as a contributor to the Coachella Canal.

The East Side Dike is an earthen detention dike that is a typical example of flood control features with no unique architectural or engineering design characteristics. The feature does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master or possesses high artistic values. Therefore, the Dike is not eligible for the CRHR under Criterion 3 as a contributor to the Coachella Canal or as an individual resource.

Historical aerial photographs and maps suggest that the East Side Dike was constructed at the time of the Coachella Canal and it remains unchanged from its original construction. Given the nature of the resource, it does not possess the potential to yield any additional information regarding the historical significance, construction, or design of the Coachella Canal and associated facilities that is not already represented in the archival record. Therefore, the dike does not have the potential to yield information important in

history and is not eligible for the CRHR under Criterion 4, either as an individual resource or as a contributor to the Coachella Canal.

The East Side Dike is not individually eligible for the CRHR. However, the East Side Dike is a contributing element to the Coachella Canal under CRHR Criterion 1 and, therefore, is an Historical Resource as defined by CEQA.

5.4.2 CV-002

CV-002 is an historic period utility pole installed in 1967. Utility poles are common utilitarian features in the region and are not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history. Therefore, this resource does not appear to qualify as eligible under Criterion 1. The American Timber and Trading Company manufactured the pole and is not associated with a single individual. Therefore, this resource does not qualify as eligible under CRHR Criterion 2. CV-002 has no distinctive characteristics and does not exhibit distinctive characteristics or construction methods that represent the work of a master. Therefore, this resource does not qualify as eligible under Criterion 3. Common utility poles like CV-002 offer no potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation and are therefore not eligible under Criterion 4. In conclusion, CV-002 is not eligible for the CRHR as an individual resource nor as an element of any possible district. It is not considered an Historical Resource as defined by CEQA.

5.5 Assessment of Impacts

Of the two resources recorded within the Project Area, only CV-001, the East Side Dike, is an Historical Resource as defined by CEQA. Only impacts to Historical Resources are potentially significant. The assessment of the Project's impacts on an Historical Resource (CV-001) is based on whether or not the proposed Project would result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of the East Side Dike by means of physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of the Historical Resource would be materially impaired. The Project entails the construction of 3,420 lineal feet of concrete slope lining along the northern slope of the East Side Dike. The slope lining will vary from 27-34.5 feet in width, and will extend from near the top of the existing Dike to below the toe of the slope. A 20-foot-deep trench will be excavated for the installation of a footing. Excavated material will be stored in the vicinity of the Dike and will be backfilled to cover the completed work to match the existing topography. Because the Project will result in a physical alteration to the Dike, the Project will have an impact on an Historical Resource.

CV-001 is eligible for the CRHR under Criterion 1 as a contributing element to the Coachella Canal and was constructed to protect the Coachella Canal from floods. The proposed Project will not alter the function of the dike but, rather, will improve the Dike's ability to protect the Coachella Canal. The proposed repairs will insert a concrete lining in the interior of the Dike, but the Dike will be returned to its historical appearance following the improvements. The proposed Project will not alter the historical association with the agricultural development of the area or the function supporting that association. Thus, although the Project will result in an impact to the resource, the Project will not materially impair the

significance of the resource and the Project will not result in a significant impact to the Historical Resource.

6.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A cultural resources assessment was conducted for a 24.7-acre Project Area in the City of Indio, Riverside County, California. Two historic-period features (CV-001 and CV-002) were identified and documented within the Project Area. No prehistoric resources were identified within the Project Area.

Both CV-001 and CV-002 were evaluated using the eligibility criteria for the CRHR. The East Side Dike (CV-001) was originally constructed in 1948 as part of the Boulder Dam project to protect the NRHP-eligible Coachella Canal. CV-001 is not eligible for the CRHR as an individual resource, but is eligible under Criterion A as a contributing element to the Coachella Canal. As such, CV-001 is an Historical Resource as defined by CEQA. CV-002 is a common utilitarian feature and is evaluated as not eligible under any CRHR eligibility criteria. CV-002 is not considered an Historical Resource under CEQA.

The proposed Project entails repairing and reinforcing the East Side Dike (CV-001). The proposed Project will not alter the historical association with the Coachella Canal, the agricultural development of the area, or the function supporting that association. Thus, although the Project will result in an impact to the resource, that impact will not be significant because the Project will not materially impair the significance of the resource and will not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of an Historical Resource.

The potential to encounter additional historic-period resources is low. Although no prehistoric resources were identified during the survey, the prehistoric archaeological sensitivity of the Project Area is considered moderate due to the recorded presence of eight previously recorded prehistoric resources within one mile of the Project Area. In the event any archaeological materials (e.g., stone tools, pottery, or milling-related artifacts like manos or metates, or historic-age resources such as cans or glass bottles) are encountered during ground-disturbing construction activities, all activities must be suspended in the vicinity of the find until the deposits are recorded and evaluated by a qualified archaeologist.

If human remains of any kind are found during construction, the requirements of CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5(e) and AB 2641 shall be followed. According to these requirements, all construction activities must cease immediately and the Riverside County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist must be notified. The Coroner will examine the remains and determine the next appropriate action based on his or her findings. If the Coroner determines the remains to be of Native American origin, he or she will notify the NAHC. The NAHC will then identify the most likely descendants (MLD) to be consulted regarding treatment and/or reburial of the remains. If an MLD cannot be identified, or the MLD fails to make a recommendation regarding the treatment of the remains within 48 hours after gaining access to the remains, the property owner shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

7.0 REFERENCES

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8.0 REPORT AND FIELD PERSONNEL

8.1 Report Preparers

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8.2 Field Personnel

Andrew Myers, Archaeologist

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Years of experience: 6

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Native American Heritage Commission Correspondence

Attachment B – *Confidential* Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Records -**REDACTED**

ATTACHMENT A

Native American Heritage Commission Correspondence

Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request

Native American Heritage Commission 1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100 West Sacramento, CA 95691 916-373-3710 916-373-5471 – Fax <u>nahc@nahc.ca.gov</u>

Information Below is Required for a Sacred Lands File Search

Project: East Side Dike Improvement Project					
County: Riverside County					
USGS Quadrangle Name: <u>Myoma (1972)</u>					
Township: <u>04S</u> Range: <u>07E</u> Section(s): <u>32</u>	2 & 33				
Company/Firm/Agency: ECORP Consulting, Inc.					
Street Address: 215 North Fifth Street					
City: <u>Redlands</u> Zip: 92374					
Phone: (909) 307-0046					
Fax: (909) 307-0056					
E whumel@ecorpeopeulting.com					

Project Description: The Coachella Valley Water District has requested that ECORP conduct a cultural resources study for the proposed project area. The study will be used in support of proposes maintenance and improvements for the East Side Dike.



Map Date: 10/9/2017 Base Source: ESRI



Records Search Map 2017-187.03 East Side Dike Improvement Project (916) 373-3710

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION Environmental and Cultural Department 1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100 West Sacramento, CA 95691



October 30, 2017

Wendy Blumel ECORP Consulting, Inc.

Sent by E-mail: wblumel@ecorpconsulting.com

RE: Proposed East Side Dike Improvement Project, near the Community of Bermuda Dunes; Myoma and West Berdoo Canyon USGS Quadrangles, Riverside County, California

Dear Ms. Blumel:

A records search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File was completed for the area of potential project effect (APE) referenced above with <u>negative</u> results. Please note that the absence of specific site information in the Sacred Lands File does not indicate the absence of Native American cultural resources in any APE.

Attached is a list of tribes culturally affiliated to the project area. I suggest you contact all of the listed Tribes. If they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. The list should provide a starting place to locate areas of potential adverse impact within the APE. By contacting all those on the list, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the NAHC requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact via email: gayle.totton@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gayle/Totton, M.A., PhD. Associate Governmental Program Analyst (916) 373-3714

Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List Riverside County 10/30/2017

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Cahuilla Luiseno

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Cahuilla

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Cahuilla

Cahuilla Band of Indians

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Cahuilla

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Kumeyaay

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Kumeyaay

Kumeyaay

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Kumeyaay

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