

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

June 18, 2015

Planning Director
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple St, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: AB 52 (PRC Subsections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2., 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, and 5097.94.) Consultation

Dear Planning Director,

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians respectfully requests that consultations on a government-to-government basis be incorporated into your Agency's processes and procedures for all projects within your jurisdiction that have the potential to impact tribal cultural resources as required by AB 52 that was signed into law in 2014. AB 52 amended CEQA with requirements that tribal cultural resources be considered along with historic, archaeological and paleontological resources when developments occur. This letter serves as a formal request for consultation.

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (the "Tribe") is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, San Bernardino County, California. Since 1891, the Tribe has been recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government by the United States. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments, it seeks to provide services for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education, cultural resources, and environment.

Tribal Traditional Territory and CEQA Consultation

The Tribe, also known as the Yuhaviatam Clan, or "People of the Pines", is one of several clans of the greater Serrano Indian Nation whose aboriginal territories encompass much of present-day San Bernardino County, southeast Kern County, Eastern Los Angeles County and northwestern Riverside County. The Tribe has maintained a close connection with its ancestral territories and has been designated as the Most Likely Descendants by the California Native American Heritage Commission on numerous occasions when inadvertent discoveries of human remains and cultural resources were made within its ancestral territory.

The attached map depicts the boundaries of the Tribe's traditional territory and is provided for your use as a planning tool. Your city/agency is within the Tribe's ancestral territory and we hereby request to review all of your CEQA projects so that we may have an opportunity to comment on the identification and protection of potential Tribal Cultural Resources. These resources and this opportunity are of great importance to the Tribe.

Other Legal Compliance Requirements

As you are aware, there are other legal compliance requirements for tribal consultation, such as CEQA and the requirements contained in SB 18 for any proposed general plan amendments, specific plans and their amendments, and certain other applications that would designate large areas of open space. The new provisions in the Public Resources Code proscribe specific steps and timelines governing the notice and consultation process. We have also attached a Timeline and Consultation Process Flow Chart related to AB 52 to assist you with this process.

Please note that in providing information to the Tribe about specific projects under any of the above requirements, we are requesting the following information be included: a project description, its location identified on a U.S.G.S. 7.5' topographic map and the results of a Records Search from the appropriate Archaeological Information Center. This information will help expedite a timely response and enhance success toward meaningful consultation.

If you would like to meet in person to develop a working relationship, please don't hesitate contacting me.

Sincerely,

Daniel F McCarthy

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Attachments:

Serrano Ancestral Territory Map
Timeline and Consultation Process Flow Chart

AB 52

Compliance Timeline and Consultation Process Flowchart

