

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Wilson

SUBMITTAL DATE:
January 26, 2004

SUBJECT: Designation of Colonia Community

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution No. 2004-097.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Coachella has requested that the Board of Supervisors designate portions of unincorporated Riverside County, as well as portions of the City of Coachella, as a Colonia community for purposes of special funding preferences for infrastructure and community development projects through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the State of California.

A "colonia" is generally defined as an established community within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border that is adversely impacted by excessive rates of poverty, unemployment, and substandard housing, as well as inadequate, antiquated, or unsafe water and wastewater systems.

The Board has previously designated several unincorporated communities as "colonias" in both the Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys. Consequently, significant grant funding has been awarded to various projects in eastern Riverside County including water, wastewater, and affordable housing.


Supervisor Roy Wilson

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RESOLUTION NO. 2004-097

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE DESIGNATING PORTIONS OF CENSUS TRACT 456.03, BLOCK GROUP 1, INCLUDING BOTH UNINCORPORATED AND CITY OF COACHELLA INCORPORATED AREAS AS A *COLONIA* COMMUNITY

(4th Supervisorial District)

WHEREAS, in 1987, the Congress of the United States passed legislation authorizing special funding allocation and preferences for the rural communities near the United States/Mexican border that are affected by high rates of poverty and unemployment, low household incomes, and lacking adequate, safe, and dependable water and wastewater systems; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Research Service and the responsible federal agencies had only considered rural communities located within counties physically bordering the United States/Mexican border as eligible for *Colonia* designation; and

WHEREAS, IN June of 1995, the Economic Development Agency requested that the California State Office of USDA – Rural Development grant the County of Riverside authorization to designate certain rural communities within the County, meeting applicable federal criteria, as *Colonias*, thereby becoming eligible for special funding consideration; and

WHEREAS, IN April of 1996, the Director of the USDA – Rural Utilities Service, issued a memorandum authorizing the USDA-RD to accept the County of Riverside's designations of *Colonia* communities for the purposes of receiving funding from USDA-RD for water and wastewater and housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County have previously designated the communities of Mecca, Thermal, Ripley, Mesa Verde, North Shore, and Oasis as *Colonias*; and

WHEREAS, portions of Census Tract 456.03, Block Group 1, further defined as the area bounded by Avenue 54 on the south, the City of Coachella Limits on the north, Fillmore Street on the east, and Highway 86S on the west is comprised of both unincorporated and incorporated land that is within 150 miles of the Mexican border, is

impacted by high rates of poverty, unemployment, and substandard housing: low-household incomes; and inadequate, antiquated, unsafe, or non-existent unsafe water and wastewater disposal systems; and

WHEREAS, These adverse conditions have been recognized to exist prior to 1987; and

WHEREAS, there are specific grant and loan funds available for *Colonia* areas from both state and federal sources; and

WHEREAS, state and federal grant and loan applications indicate that an area that has "been designated as a *Colonia* by the state or county" may apply for those funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coachella has adopted a City Resolution specifically requesting that the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County take action to designate the defined area as a *Colonia*.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, APPROVED, AND DETERMINED by the Board of Supervisors for the County of Riverside, State of California, in regular session on this _____ day of February, 2004, as follows:

The Board of Supervisors hereby designates, in accordance with the U.S Department of Agriculture and the Department of Housing and Urban Development "Colonia" definitions, those certain portions of Census Tract 456.03, Block Group 1, further defined as the area bounded by Avenue 54 on the south, the City of Coachella Limits on the north, Fillmore Street on the east, and Highway 86S on the west, as a *Colonia* for purposes of special funding consideration.

Roy Wilson, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board