

3/29



OFFICE OF  
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1st FLOOR, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
P.O. BOX 1147, 4080 LEMON STREET  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92502-1147  
PHONE: (951) 955-1060  
FAX: (951) 955-1071

KECIA HARPER-IHEM  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR  
Assistant Clerk of the Board

March 3, 2016

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E-MAIL: [legals@pe.com](mailto:legals@pe.com)

RE: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: GPA 1153 EA

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is a copy for publication in your newspaper for **one (1) time on Wednesday, March 9, 2016.**

We require your affidavit of publication immediately upon completion of the last publication.

Your invoice must be submitted to this office, **WITH TWO CLIPPINGS OF THE PUBLICATION.**

NOTE: PLEASE COMPOSE THIS PUBLICATION INTO A SINGLE COLUMN FORMAT.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and expertise.

Sincerely,

*Cecilia Gil*

Board Assistant to:  
KECIA HARPER-IHEM, CLERK OF THE BOARD

**Gil, Cecilia**

---

**From:** PEC Legals Master <legalsmaster@pe.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2016 12:57 PM  
**To:** Gil, Cecilia  
**Subject:** Re: FOR PUBLICATION: GPA 1153

Received for publication on 3/9

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**From:** Gil, Cecilia <CCGIL@rcbos.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2016 8:40 AM  
**To:** PEC Legals Master  
**Subject:** FOR PUBLICATION: GPA 1153

Notice of Public Hearing, for publication on Wednesday, March 9, 2016. Please confirm. THANK YOU!

*Cecilia Gil*

Board Assistant

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

(951) 955-8464

MS# 1010



OFFICE OF  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
1st FLOOR, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
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RIVERSIDE, CA 92502-1147  
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KECIA HARPER-IHEM  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR  
Assistant Clerk of the Board

March 3, 2016

THE DESERT SUN  
ATTN: LEGALS  
P.O. BOX 2734  
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92263

PH : (760) 778-4578  
E-MAIL: [legals@thedesertsun.com](mailto:legals@thedesertsun.com)

RE: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: GPA 1153 EA

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Thank you in advance for your assistance and expertise.

Sincerely,

*Cecilia Gil*

Board Assistant to:  
KECIA HARPER-IHEM, CLERK OF THE BOARD

**Gil, Cecilia**

---

**From:** Email, TDS-Legals <legals@thedesertsun.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2016 9:07 AM  
**To:** Gil, Cecilia  
**Subject:** RE: FOR PUBLICATION: GPA 1153

Good Morning Cecilia.  
I hope all is well ☺

Ad received and will publish on date(s) requested.

**Charlene Moeller** | Customer Care Representative / Legals

The Desert Sun Media Group  
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**From:** Gil, Cecilia [mailto:CCGIL@rcbos.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:41 AM  
**To:** Email, TDS-Legals <legals@thedesertsun.com>  
**Subject:** FOR PUBLICATION: GPA 1153

Good morning!

Notice of Public Hearing, for publication on Wednesday, March 9, 2016. Please confirm. THANK YOU!

*Cecilia Gil*  
Board Assistant  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
(951) 955-8464  
MS# 1010

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT COUNTYWIDE AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing at which all interested persons will be heard, will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Chambers, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, on **Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 10:30 A.M.** or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider the County-Initiated **General Plan Amendment No. 1153**, which proposes to amend the Riverside County General Plan to expand existing renewable energy policies to facilitate renewable energy development in the county, particularly the far eastern desert and Salton Sea regions. Proposed changes include Land Use Element text and policy changes to coordinate development of renewable energy in the Far Eastern Riverside County desert area (outside of existing Area Plans) and address both the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Solar Energy Program and the State's proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), Multipurpose Open Space Element revisions addressing renewable energy, including "emerging technologies," establishing Wilderness Policy Areas in six eastern Area Plans and the Salton Sea Renewable Energy Policy Area or the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan, Countywide.

The Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the project and adopt the Negative Declaration for **Environmental Assessment No. 42867**.

The project case file may be viewed from the date of this notice until the public hearing, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Riverside, California 92501, and at the Riverside County Planning Department at 4080 Lemon Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Riverside, California 92501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT CINDY A. THIELMAN-BRAUN, PROJECT PLANNER, AT (951) 955-8632 OR EMAIL [cthielma@rctlma.org](mailto:cthielma@rctlma.org).

Any person wishing to testify in support of or in opposition to the project may do so in writing between the date of this notice and the public hearing, or may appear and be heard at the time and place noted above. All written comments received prior to the public hearing will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Supervisors will consider such comments, in addition to any oral testimony, before making a decision on the project.

If you challenge the above item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence to the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing. Be advised that as a result of the public hearing and the consideration of all public comment, written and oral, the Board of Supervisors may amend, in whole or in part, the project and/or the related environmental document. Accordingly, the designations, development standards, design or improvements, or any properties or lands within the boundaries of the project, may be changed in a way other than specifically proposed.

Alternative formats available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation, please contact Lisa Wagner at (951) 955-1063, 72 hours prior to the hearing.

Please send all written correspondence to: Clerk of the Board, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, CA 92502-1147

Dated: March 3, 2016

Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

## **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

(Original copy, duly executed, must be attached to  
the original document at the time of filing)

I, Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant to Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, for the County of Riverside, do hereby certify that I am not a party to the within action or proceeding; that on March 3, 2016, I forwarded to Riverside County Clerk & Recorder's Office a copy of the following document:

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

GPA 1153

to be posted in the office of the County Clerk at 2724 Gateway Drive, Riverside, California 92507. Upon completion of posting, the County Clerk will provide the required certification of posting.

**Board Agenda Date:** March 29, 2016 @ 10:30 A.M.

SIGNATURE: Cecilia Gil      DATE: March 3, 2016  
Cecilia Gil

## Gil, Cecilia

---

**From:** Meyer, Mary Ann <MaMeyer@asrclkrec.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2016 8:43 AM  
**To:** Gil, Cecilia; Acevedo, Amy; Buie, Tammie; Kennemer, Bonnie  
**Subject:** RE: FOR POSTING: GPA 1153

Received and will be posted

**From:** Gil, Cecilia [mailto:CCGIL@rcbos.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:41 AM  
**To:** Acevedo, Amy; Buie, Tammie; Kennemer, Bonnie; Meyer, Mary Ann  
**Subject:** FOR POSTING: GPA 1153

**Good morning! Notice of Public Hearing for POSTING. Please confirm. THANK YOU!**

*Cecilia Gil*

Board Assistant  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
(951) 955-8464  
MS# 1010

## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

(Original copy, duly executed, must be attached to  
the original document at the time of filing)

I, Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant, for the County of Riverside, do hereby certify that I am not a party to the within action or proceeding; that on March 3, 2016, I mailed a copy of the following document:

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

GPA 1153

to the parties listed in the attached labels, by depositing said copy with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States Post Office, 3890 Orange St., Riverside, California, 92501.

**Board Agenda Date:** March 29, 2016 @ 10:30 A.M.

SIGNATURE: Cecilia Gil      DATE: March 3, 2016  
Cecilia Gil



San Diego Assoc. of Governments  
Wells Fargo Plaza  
401 B St., Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

Southern California Association of  
Governments  
818 W 7th St, 12th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Coachella Valley Assoc. of Govts.  
73-710 Fred Waring Dr, Ste 200  
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2553

County of Orange, Planning Director  
300 N Flower St.  
P.O. Box 4048  
Santa Ana, CA 92703-5000

Imperial Valley Assoc. of Governments  
940 West Main St., Suite 208  
El Centro, CA 92243

San Bernardino Assoc of Govts.  
1170 W 3rd St  
San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715

County of San Bernardino  
Director, Land Use Service Dept.  
385 N Arrowhead Ave, 3rd Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-1008

County of Imperial  
Planning Director  
939 Main St., Suite B-1  
El Centro, CA 92243-2843

County of La Paz  
Planning Director  
1112 S Joshua Ave., Suite 204  
Parker, AZ 85344-5756

County of San Diego  
Planning Director  
5201 Ruffin Rd., Suite B  
San Diego, CA 92123

City of Rancho Mirage  
Planning Manager  
69-825 Highway 111  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

City of Blythe  
Development Services Dept.  
Attn: Walt Honse  
235 N Broadway, MS 2611  
Blythe, CA 92225

City of 29 Palms, Planning Director  
6136 Adobe Rd  
PO Box 995  
29 Palms, CA 92277

City of Yucaipa  
Planning Director  
34272 Yucaipa Blvd  
Yucaipa, CA 92399-2434

City of Coachella  
Planning Director  
1515 Sixth St  
Coachella, CA 92236

City of Yucca Valley  
Planning Director  
57090 29 Palms Hwy.  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284-2932

Cathedral City Planning Division  
City Planner  
68-700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

City of Banning  
Community Devel. Director  
PO Box 998  
Banning, CA 92220-0090

City of Beaumont  
Planning Director  
550 E. 6th St  
Beaumont, CA 92223

City of Blythe  
Devel. Services Director  
440 S Main St  
Blythe, CA 92225

City of Calimesa  
Planning Manager  
P.O. Box 1190  
Calimesa, CA 92320

City of Desert Hot Springs  
Attn: Larry Grafton, Planning Dept.  
65-950 Pierson Blvd.  
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

City of Indio  
Planning & Building Director  
PO Drawer 1788  
Indio, CA 92202

City of La Quinta  
Planning Director  
PO Box 1504  
La Quinta, CA 92253

City of Indian Wells  
Planning Director  
44-950 El Dorado Dr  
Indian Wells, CA 92210-7497

City of Palm Desert  
Planning Director  
73-510 Fred Waring Dr  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

City of Palm Springs  
Planning Director  
PO Box 2743  
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Coachella Valley Parks & Rec. District  
45-305 Oasis St.  
Indio, CA 92201-4337

Beaumont / Cherry Valley  
Recreation & Parks District  
PO Box 490  
Beaumont, CA 92223-0490

Colorado River Board  
Attn: Gerald R. Zimmerman  
770 Fairmont Ave., Ste. 100  
Glendale, CA 91203-1035



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U.S. Dept. of Interior  
650 E Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Southern California Agency  
Attn: Virgil Townsend,  
2038 Iowa Ave, Ste 101  
Riverside, CA 92507-0001

Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs Resource Area  
690 W Garnet Ave, PO Box 581260  
N Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260

Bureau of Land Management  
California Desert District Office  
6221 Box Springs Ave  
Riverside, CA 92507

Bureau of Land Management  
Division of Land Acquisition  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Bureau of Reclamation  
Southern California Area Office  
27708 Jefferson Ave., Suite 202  
Temecula, CA 92590-2628

Bureau of Land Management  
El Centro Field Office  
1661 S 4th St  
El Centro, CA 92243

Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Dept. of Interior  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Region  
PO Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Joshua Tree National Park  
National Park Service  
74485 National Park Dr.  
29 Palms, CA 92277-3533

Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agri.  
San Jacinto Ranger Station  
54270 Pinecrest, PO Box 518  
Idyllwild, CA 92549

Natural Resources Conserv. Svc.  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
82-901 Bliss  
Indio, CA 92201-4355

San Bernardino National Forest  
U.S. Forest Services  
1824 Commercenter Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408-3430

Resource Conservation District,  
Palo Verde  
PO Box 610  
Blythe, CA 92225

Cal. Dept. of Corrections  
Chuckwalla Valley State Prison  
19025 Wileys Well Rd  
Blythe, CA 92225-2287

Cal. Dept. of Parks & Recreation  
Colorado Desert District  
200 Palm Canyon Dr.  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004-5005

Cal. Dept. of Parks & Recreation  
Ocotillo Well (ORV Rec) District  
PO Box 360  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004-0360

San Bernardino Co Public Works Dept  
Transportation Division  
825 East Third St.  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Desert Water Agency  
1200 S. Gene Autry Trail  
PO Box 2466  
Palm Springs, CA 92264-3533

Coachella Valley Water District  
85995 Avenue 52  
Coachella, CA 92236

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency  
1210 Beaumont Ave  
PO Box 520  
Beaumont, CA 92223

Metropolitan Water District of So Cal  
Attn: P.E. Manager  
PO Box 54153  
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Imperial Irrigation District  
333 E Barioni Blvd  
PO Box 937  
Imperial, CA 92251-1773

Palo Verde Irrigation District  
180 W 14th Avenue  
Blythe, CA 92225-2714

Southern California Gas Company  
Engineering Dept.  
1981 W Lugonia Ave, Mail Loc 8031  
Redlands, CA 92374-9796

Southern California Gas Transmission  
Attn: Region Planner  
251 E First St  
Beaumont, CA 92223-2903

Verizon Engineering  
1980 Orange Tree Lane, Suite 100  
Redlands, CA 92374

Desert Wind Energy Association  
PO Box 206  
N Palm Springs, CA 92258

AT&T - Attn: Maryann Cassaday  
3939 E. Coronado, 2nd Floor  
Anaheim, CA 92807

San Diego Gas & Electric Co.  
Corporate Headquarters  
101 Ash St  
San Diego, CA 92101-3017



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Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

U.S. Department of Energy  
Western Area Power Admin.  
114 Park Shore Drive  
Folsom, CA 95630-4710

California Reclamation Board  
Div. of Flood Management  
3310 El Camino Ave., Ste. LL-60,  
Sacramento, CA 05821

California Dept. of Forestry & Fire  
Protection, Riv. County Admin. HQ  
210 W San Jacinto Ave,  
San Jacinto, CA 92570

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Div. Manager, Ecological Services  
6010 Hidden Valley Rd.  
Carlsbad, CA 92011

Federal Aviation Administration  
Western Pacific Region  
15000 Aviation Blvd.  
Lawndale, CA 90261-1000

Marine Corps Air Station  
Community Planning & Liason Office  
Bldg. 699 Hart Street  
Yuma, AZ 85365

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Natural Resources Conserv. Service  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
950 N Ramona Blvd, Suite 6,  
San Jacinto, CA 92582-2567

U.S. Navy, Attn: Community Plans  
& Liaison Coordinator  
1220 Pacific Highway,  
San Diego, CA 92132-5190

US Marine Corps, Marine Corps  
Installation West, Attn: Director,  
Office of Govt & External Affairs  
Building 1164, Box 555246  
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5246

U.S. Army, National Training Center  
Attn: Chief Strategic Plans, S3, NTC  
PO Box 10172  
Fort Irwin, CA 92310

U.S. Air Force, W. Reg. Environ. Office  
Attn: Mr. Baha Y. Zarah  
50 Fremont St., Suite 2450,  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2230

U.S. Army, Combat Support Training  
Center, Attn: Director of Public Works  
B232 California Ave.,  
Fort Hunter Liggett, CA 93928

Marine Corps Air/Ground Combat Ctr.  
Attn: Installation & Logistics,  
Commanding General  
PO Box 788106  
29 Palms, CA 92278-5001

Governor's Office of Planning &  
Research - Attn: Scott Morgan  
PO Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth St, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cal Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Region 6  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., #C-220,  
Ontario, CA 91764

Cal. Dept. of Conservation  
CA Geol Survey, State Geologist  
801 K Street, Suite 1200,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cal. Dept. of Conservation  
Mining & Geology Board  
801 K Street, MS 20-15  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cal. Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection  
210 W. San Jacinto Ave.  
Perris, CA 92570-1915

South Coast Air Quality Mngmt Dist.  
Office of Planning & Rules  
21865 E. Copley Dr.  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178

California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street, PO Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Cal. Dept of Fish & Game  
Environmental Svcs. Division  
Attn: Scott Flint,  
1416 Ninth St., 13th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mojave Desert Air Quality Mngmt Dist.  
Attn: Charles Fryxell  
14306 Park Ave.  
Victorville, CA 92392-2310

Cal. Dept. of Conservation  
Attn: Roseanne Taylor  
801 K Street, MS-24-02  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cal. Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection  
Attn: Environ. Coordinator  
1416 Ninth St., Room 1516-24,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cal. Dept. of Water Resources  
Attn: Nadell Gayou, Sr. Eng.  
901 P Street, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Native American Heritage Commission  
Attn: Debbie Treadway  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Office of Historic Preservation  
Attn: Michelle Messenger  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 95814



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San Diego, CA 92186-5406

Cal. Dept. of Transp., Region 8  
Forecasting / IGR-CEQA Review  
464 W Fourth St., MS-722, 6th Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400

Cal. Dept. of Transportation  
Division of Aeronautics  
PO Box 942871 MS-40  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Cal. Dept. of Transportation Planning  
PO Box 942874, MS-32  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Public Utilities Commission  
Attn: Ken Lewis  
505 Van Ness Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94102

California Energy Commission  
Attn: Envir. Protection Officer  
1516 Ninth St, MS-40  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cal. Regional WQ Control Board,  
Colorado River Basin Region 7  
73-720 Fred Waring Dr, Suite 100  
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2564

State Water Resrces Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
1001 I Street, PO Box 806  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

State Water Resrcs Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
1001 I Street, PO Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Cal. Dept. of Parks & Recreation  
Environ. Stewardship Section  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Cal. State Lands Commission  
Attn: G. Peika  
200 Oceangate, Floor 12  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4331

State School Lands  
U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
1849 C Street  
Washington, DC 20240

California State School Lands  
100 Howe Ave, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Regents of University of California  
Director of Real Estate  
1111 Franklin St., 6th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5201

Winter King  
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP  
396 Hayes Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

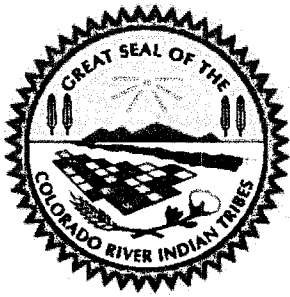


**Aparicio, Ashley**

---

**From:** Autumn Yava <ayava@critdoj.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:17 AM  
**To:** North, Tiffany; cthielman@rctlma.org; COB; Rebecca Loudbear; davidharper\_747@hotmail.com; Tashina Harper; Keith Moses; Amelia Flores; amanda.barrera@crit-nsn.gov; Valerie Welsh-Tahbo; granthum.stevens@crit-nsn.gov; hermantjlafoon@yahoo.com; johnny.hilljr@crit-nsn.gov; jd.fisher@crit-nsn.gov  
**Cc:** Nancy Jasculca  
**Subject:** CRIT's Comments on Proposed GPA No. 1153 and Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration  
**Attachments:** L\_CThielman & Board of Supervisors\_CRIT Comments to Riverside County Proposed General Plan Amendment\_032816.pdf

Dear Clerk of the Board and Ms. Thielman-Braun, attached please find CRIT's.....



# COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

*Colorado River Indian Reservation*

26600 MOHAVE ROAD  
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344  
TELEPHONE (928) 669-1220  
FAX (928) 669-1216

March 28, 2016

*Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail*

Board of Supervisors  
Riverside County  
4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor  
Riverside, California 92501

Cindy A. Thielman-Braun  
Project Planner  
Riverside County Planning Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor  
Riverside, California 92501

**Re: Comments of the Colorado River Indian Tribes on Riverside  
County Proposed General Plan Amendment No. 1153 and the  
Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Colorado River Indian Tribes ("CRIT" or "the Tribes") submits the following comments on the Riverside County General Plan Amendment ("GPA") No. 1153 and its accompanying environmental analysis. As we previously explained to the Riverside County Planning Commission prior to its February 24, 2016 meeting, the Tribes only became aware of this GPA the day before the Planning Commission meeting and had no chance to review the proposed amendment or consult with Riverside County regarding potential cultural resource impacts. We requested that the Planning Commission suspend consideration of GPA No. 1153 and the Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration to allow for Tribal review and consultation prior to the Planning Commission consideration, but were told that the timeline for the underlying funding of the GPA was such that the Planning Commission could not comply with our request. We now submit these comments in advance of the Board of Supervisors' March 29, 2016 hearing regarding the GPA and Notice of Intent.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes is a federally recognized Indian tribe comprised of over 4,200 members belonging to the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo tribes. The approximately 300,000-acre Colorado River Indian Reservation sits astride the Colorado River between Blythe, California and Parker, Arizona. The ancestral homelands of the Colorado River Indian Tribes' members, however, extend far beyond the Reservation boundaries. Indeed, significant portions of public and private lands in Riverside County were once occupied by the ancestors of the Tribes' Mohave and Chemehuevi members since time immemorial. Because of this, the Tribes are very concerned with land use planning policies like those in GPA No. 1153 that impact the footprint of these Mohave and Chemehuevi ancestors.

In particular, the Tribes are troubled by the GPA's focus on siting utility-scale renewable energy in their ancestral territory; even more alarming is the County's apparent conclusion that no Tribal Cultural Resources will be significantly impacted by industrial-scale utility development there. The Tribes have submitted numerous comments to Riverside County regarding the cultural importance of these lands and the harm caused by development there. Indeed, while this GPA was being developed, the Tribes and Riverside County were engaged in litigation over the cultural resource impacts of a solar energy project located in the Tribes' ancestral lands near Blythe. The Tribes have consistently expressed their concerns regarding the cultural resource sensitivity of eastern Riverside County, the harm caused by proposed development there, and culturally-appropriate mitigation measures. As a result, the Tribes must object to any general plan amendment that expands the scope or intensity of utility-scale energy development on undeveloped land in these areas.

After further reviewing the proposed language of the GPA, the Tribes wish to bring several additional issues to the Board's attention and to suggest the following changes:

- **Prioritize avoidance of cultural resources and landscapes whenever possible.** In discussing siting of wind energy, solar energy, and transmission lines, the Land Use Element acknowledges that care must be taken to protect natural resources, including cultural resources, but provides no actionable direction in helping the County carry out these protections. This language should be revised to state that future energy growth should be sited in a way that avoids sensitive cultural resources and cultural landscapes whenever possible.
  - See, e.g., Land Use Element LU-35, -37, -39 to -40.

- **Incorporate reburial as a mitigation strategy.** Utility-scale energy projects like those contemplated in the proposed amendment have the potential to disturb and unearth cultural resources that have been buried for thousands of years. In the Mohave tradition, these artifacts are considered sacred and removing them from the ground is taboo. For this reason, where total avoidance is not possible, reburial is the Tribes' preferred method of cultural resource mitigation. Riverside County has previously incorporated a reburial policy into the permitting for solar energy projects like Blythe Mesa; the Tribes now ask that this reburial policy be incorporated into the General Plan to ensure that reburial is a key mitigation strategy for impacts to buried cultural resources due to energy development.
- **Emphasize tribal consultation, not just "coordination."** As the County is aware, AB 52 now requires the County to consult with any requesting tribes who have affiliation to cultural resources that could be impacted by one of the County's projects. This consultation must take place before the County issues any CEQA review documents regarding the proposed project. Yet, despite California's codified tribal consultation requirement, the General Plan amendment frequently refers to "coordination" with tribes, rather than consultation. This language ignores the mandate in AB 52 and inappropriately replaces formal consultation with some type of lesser, undefined requirement. The County should revise all language promising "coordination" with tribes to indicate that the County will "consult" with tribes.<sup>1</sup>
  - See, e.g., Multipurpose Open Space Element OS 10.4; Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan ECVAP AP 2.14.
- **"Best" locations for renewable energy siting may have competing resource values.** Much of the proposed amendment to the Land Use Element of the General Plan focuses on appropriate siting of renewable energy, especially utility-scale solar and wind projects. The Land Use Element identifies the undeveloped land between the Coachella Valley and the Arizona border as key to future solar development. See LU-37. Yet, as the Tribes explained to the Planning Commission, these lands in eastern Riverside County are part of their Mohave and

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<sup>1</sup> The Tribes submitted an AB 52 consultation request letter to Riverside County on October 8, 2015. We recently received a letter from the County indicating that our letter had not been received, so we resent our consultation request letter for the County's convenience (see attached letters).




Chemehuevi ancestral territory and have great cultural significance to the Tribes. Indeed, the Tribes identified these areas as sacred as early as 1980 during the federal government's creation of the California Desert Conservation Area. Unfortunately, the Tribes' input did not prevent BLM from designating the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone and approving a number of projects within and adjacent to these culturally sensitive areas (see attached map). The Tribes fear that if Riverside County does not revise the language of its GPA to better prioritize cultural resource protection and mitigation, the County could make the same devastating energy siting choices.

- **Disturbed agricultural lands may not be free of cultural resource impacts.** The Land Use Element expresses a preference for siting solar energy on previously disturbed agricultural lands. While the Tribes agree that disturbed agricultural lands may give rise to fewer resource impacts, LU-17.6 should be revised to state that the County will still consult with tribes to ensure that projects on these lands would not have significant cultural resource impacts, especially where the projects would require grading at a depth below the agricultural plow line, exacerbate damage to trails, or impact sacred viewsheds and landscapes.
- **Support for distributed generation.** The Tribes wishes to express its strong support for distributed generation (a.k.a. rooftop solar) as an alternative to utility-scale energy developments in the desert. We applaud Riverside County for its inclusion of Multipurpose Open Space Element OS 12.6 and encourage the County to continue prioritizing these types of energy alternatives.

We appreciate your time in reviewing these comments and request a written response to our concerns. Also, given the spiritual and cultural significance of the land at issue, we request government-to-government consultation with the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Please copy Colorado River Indian Tribes' Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, David Harper (928-669-5822), Rebecca Loudbear, Attorney General, and Nancy Jасulca, Deputy Attorney General, in the CRIT Office of the Attorney General ([rloudbear@critdoj.com](mailto:rloudbear@critdoj.com) and [njasculca@critdoj.com](mailto:njasculca@critdoj.com)) on any correspondence.

Sincerely,  
**COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES**

  
Dennis Patch  
Chairman

Board of Supervisors  
March 28, 2016  
Page 5

CC: Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Rebecca A. Loudbear, Attorney General for the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
David Harper, Director, CRIT THPO

Encls. (2)



**COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES**  
*Colorado River Indian Reservation*

26600 MOHAVE ROAD  
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344  
TELEPHONE (928) 669-1220  
FAX (928) 669-1216

March 21, 2016

**Sent Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested,**  
**United States Mail, and E-mail**

Heather Thomson, County Archaeologist (hthomson@rcplma.org)  
Riverside County Planning Department  
P.O. Box 1409  
Riverside, CA 92502-1409

**RE: AB 52 Consultation for Riverside County Projects**

Dear Ms. Thomson,

Thank you for your letter dated February 26, 2016. We are enclosing a copy of our letter dated October 8, 2015 to Riverside County requesting formal notice of and information on proposed projects within Riverside County's jurisdiction pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. As stated in the enclosed letter, areas that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Colorado River Indian Tribes include Riverside County.

In addition to providing notification to Tribal Secretary Amanda Barrera and the CRIT Attorney General's Office, please also provide courtesy notice of proposed projects to David Harper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer at crithpo@crit-nsn.gov.

Thank you in advance for your courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

**COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Patch".

Dennis Patch  
Chairman

**Cc:** Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
David Harper, Director, THPO (via e-mail only)  
Rebecca A. Loudbear, CRIT Attorney General (via e-mail only)

Encl.





**COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES**  
*Colorado River Indian Reservation*

26600 MOHAVE ROAD  
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344  
TELEPHONE (928) 669-1220  
FAX (928) 669-1216

**Sent Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested**  
**And United States Mail**

October 8, 2015

Riverside County  
Attn: Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor  
Riverside, California 92501

**RE: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code § 21080.3(b)**  
**Request for Formal Notification of Proposed Projects Within the Colorado**  
**River Indian Tribe's Geographic Area of Traditional and Cultural**  
**Affiliation**

Dear Supervisors:

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(b), the Colorado River Indian Tribes, which is traditionally and culturally affiliated with lands within Riverside County's geographic area of jurisdiction, requests formal notice of and information on proposed projects for which Riverside County will serve as a lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Specifically, we request formal notification of proposed projects in geographic areas that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Colorado River Indian Tribes which include Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial Counties.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b), and until further notice, we hereby designate the following person as the tribe's lead contact person for purposes of receiving notices of proposed projects from Riverside County:

Name- Amanda Barrera  
Title- Tribal Secretary  
Address- 26600 Mohave Road, Parker, Arizona 85344  
Phone Number(s)- (928) 669-1280 and (928) 669-1219  
Fax Number- (928) 669-1216  
Email Address- Amanda.Barrera@crit-nsn.gov

We request that all notices be sent via certified U.S. Mail with return receipt. Following receipt and review of the information your agency provides, within the 30-day period proscribed by Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(d), the Colorado River Indian Tribes may request consultation, as defined by Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) and Government Code section 65352.4, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes view AB 52 as a significant opportunity for California public agencies to establish productive government-to-government consultation relationships with Indian tribes. As county agencies begin to implement AB 52's requirements, we urge you to institute consultation procedures that take into consideration the following:

- Consultation should occur in person, between individuals or entities that have sufficient knowledge and decisionmaking authority. For the Colorado River Indian Tribes, consultation must occur with the Tribal Council.
- Consultation must involve seeking information and opinions from affected tribes and addressing tribes' concerns, where feasible, through project conditions and mitigation measures. Providing tribes with information about a project or its potential impacts on cultural resources, while important, does not constitute consultation.
- The Tribes often provide information, comments, and opinions via letter. To ensure effective communication, these letters must be responded to in advance of in-person meetings. Simply adding such letters to an administrative record without comment or response is not respectful of the effort made by the Colorado River Indian Tribes to provide important information about irreplaceable cultural resources.
- Consultation must begin early in the process of project review. Consultation cannot be effective when a particular project iteration has already gained momentum or decisionmakers have already made up their minds.
- Consultation must be respectful of the unique constraints on tribal governments. Many tribal governments—including the Colorado River Indian Tribes—face significant demands with limited resources. In addition, review of and comment on cultural resource impacts necessarily involves multiple tribal entities, including Tribal Council, Elders committees, museum staff, cultural resource departments, tribal historic preservation officers, and/or legal staff. Coordination among these important and varied entities requires sufficient time for review and response.
- As consultation under Government Code section 65352.4 requires lead agencies to "where feasible, seek[] agreement" with Indian tribes, the Colorado Indian River Tribes request that lead agencies provide a written feasibility assessment whenever agreement cannot be met. Such findings will allow tribes to evaluate whether lead agencies have adequately complied with this consultation requirement.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes believe that by establishing this framework early, California public agencies can set a strong example of respectful and effective consultation with Indian tribes. In addition, this effort can help avoid the conflicts and legal challenges that have defined consultation with the federal government.

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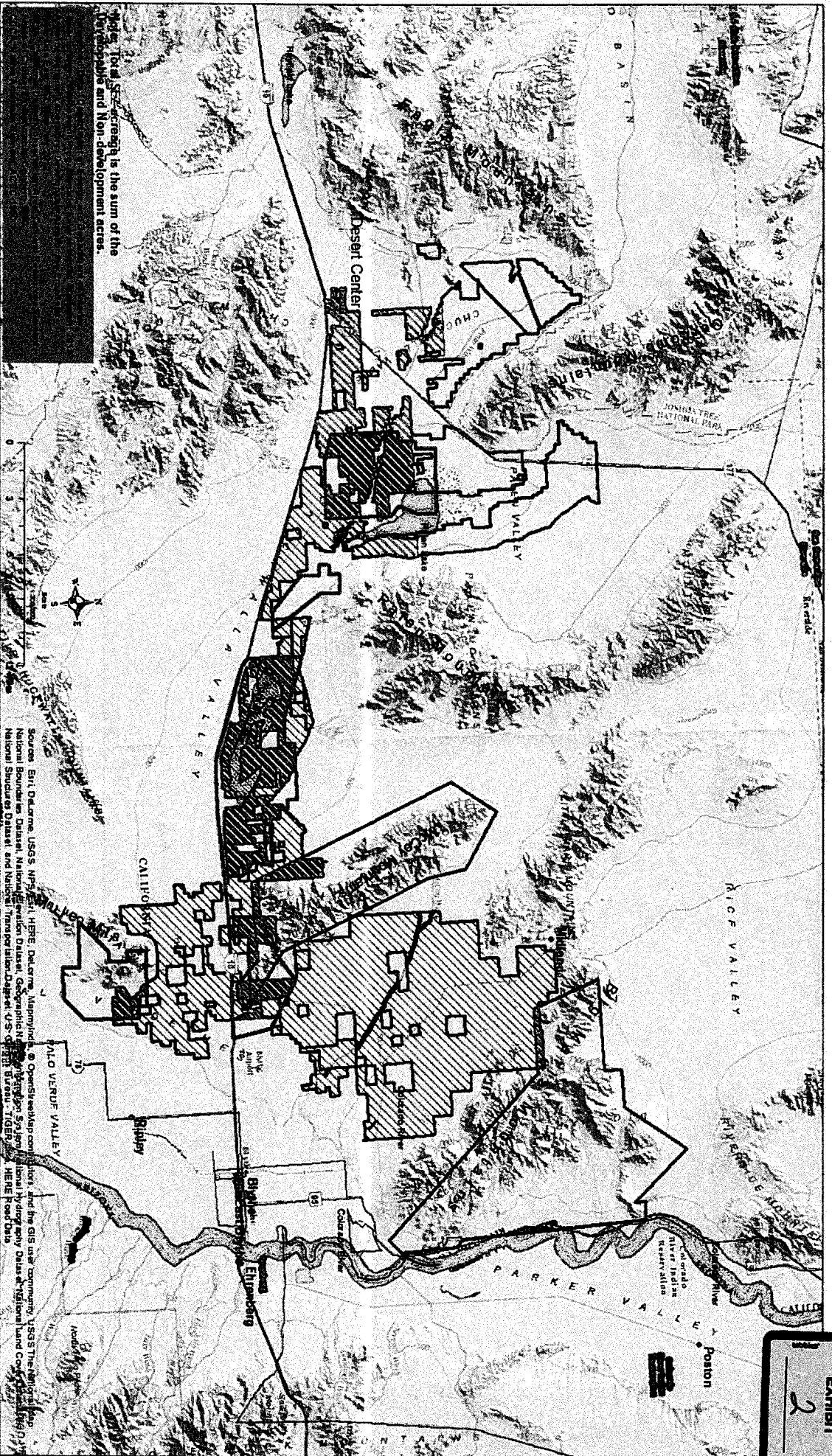
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact our lead contact person listed above. We also request that Riverside County send courtesy copies of all notifications and correspondence to the attention of Rebecca A. Loudbear, Attorney General for the Colorado River Indian Tribes Office, at 26600 Mohave Road, Parker, Arizona 85344, and via email at [rloudbear@critdoj.com](mailto:rloudbear@critdoj.com). Finally, we ask that Riverside County send a written response to this letter to our lead contact person, confirming receipt of the Tribes' request, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)(1).

Sincerely,



Dennis Patch  
Chairman, Colorado River Indian Tribes

CC: Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Rebecca A. Loudbear, Attorney General for the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Rob Wood, Native American Heritage Commission



Total SEZ acreage is the sum of the developable and non-development acres.

- Riverside East SEZ Proposed in Draft Solar PEIS (202,896 acres)
- Developable (147,910 acres)
- Non-development (11,547 acres)
- Potential High Visual Sensitivity Area
- Colorado River Indian Reservation CRIR Boundary
- Lake (intermittent)
- Cultural Resources Element
- California Desert Conservation Area
- Native American Element
- California Desert Conservation Area
- Native American Element
- California Desert Conservation Area
- Native American Element

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community; USGS The National Map; National Boundaries Dataset; National Population Dataset; Geographic Names Information System; National Hydrography Data of the United States; National Structure Dataset; US Census Bureau; Tiger2010; HERE Road Data.

CRIR Water Resources  
Land Use GIS Specialist  
Matty Pridemore  
Composed: 08-14-2015  
No Liability Assumed

## **Aparicio, Ashley**

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**From:** Joan Taylor <palmcanyon@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:10 PM  
**To:** COB  
**Cc:** Olivas, Jay; Lovelady, Kristi  
**Subject:** Item 16.2 comments on GPA 1153, Tuesday 3/29/16 hearing

Please deliver these comments to the Board for inclusion in the record of this matter, thank you.

Chairman and Members of the Board:

These additional comments are being submitted on behalf of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club with regard to GPA 1153.

Staff report to the Board responded that our earlier recommendation to update and improve the wildlife protections related to renewable energy would be better accomplished by updating County Ordinance 348 Secs 19.41 and 18.42 on WECS. Point taken. However, none of the provisions of the above Ordinance specifically address avian mortality or the measures appropriate to avoid, minimize and mitigate it.

Unfortunately, the County's Wind Implementation Monitoring Program (WIMP), which may deal with this issue, is in hardcopy only and not readily available for review. Please see the recent communique from County staff, forwarded separately. To our knowledge, neither the wind provisions in Ordinance 348 nor the WIMP have been updated in the last five years, so we request that an update to these policies be initiated, and the Sierra Club be notified of any opportunities to work with the County on this important issue. This is particularly important because the County's permits for WECS are limited to 30 years, and there will be increasing applications for re-powering older turbines in the San Gorgonio Pass wind resource area over time. The new, much larger turbines will have different impacts from the older ones, and to date there has been little to no avian mortality monitoring of wind projects, so there is a scant baseline information.

With regard to solar projects, GPA 1153 at LU 17.2 has language limiting utility scale solar to slopes of 25% or less, except under unusual circumstances. Normally utility scale solar is feasible on slopes of 5% or less, which is the metric used by NREL and others, and would be an appropriate figure rather than 25%.

In the discussion of the Salton Sea, at EVC AP 2.12, the creation of shallow water habitat is mentioned. However, it is also critical for County policy to support maintenance of a significant portion of the Salton Sea as deep water habitat, capable of supporting the Sea's fishery, both to preserve avian migration and to act as a tourism/ recreational amenity for the area.

The Pass Area Plan is included in the documents affected by this GPA, but there is no evidence of any proposed changes. It seems that some mention of wind energy industrial uses would be appropriate in the Pass Area Plan. Likewise, for the Western Coachella Valley Area Plan. These are the Plans that include much of the San Gorgonio Pass Wind Resource Area.

In sum, Sierra Club appreciates the County's update insofar as it goes, and looks forward to the opportunity to work with the County on updating its wind energy policies to be congruent with current thinking on protecting avian resources (such as incorporating the California Energy Commission Wind Guidelines). Further, we look forward to participating in any future discussions of a "Phase 2" for DRECP as it affects Riverside County.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment GPA 1153.





**United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office  
1201 Bird Center Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262-8001  
(760) 833-7100 Fax (760) 833-7199



**11/9/2015**

In Reply Refer to:  
CA-060-00

Juan Perez, Director  
Transportation & Land Management Agency  
County of Riverside  
4080 Lemon Street, P.O. Box 1605  
Riverside County, CA 92502-1605

Dear Mr. Perez:

We appreciate your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), dated February 23, 2015.

As you are aware, we are proceeding with the phased approach for the DRECP involving completion of the BLM land use plan amendment separate from the federal General Conservation Plan and the state Natural Communities Conservation Plan. We thank you for meeting with us on several occasions to discuss development of the final DRECP and EIS for the proposed BLM land use plan amendment.

As previously discussed, we included the BLM lands within and east of the Coachella Valley, located outside of the DRECP planning area, in the DRECP document as a means of completing a needed land use plan amendment involving these lands. Under regulations at Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, §1610.5-5, the BLM may determine that a land use plan amendment is needed to consider monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, or a change in circumstances or a proposed action that may result in a change in the scope of resource uses or a change in the terms, conditions, and decisions of an approved plan. In this case, we needed to analyze designation of suitable BLM lands within this area to be managed as components of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (PL 111-11).

On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (PL 111-11), which congressionally established the NLCS, to "conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations." The NLCS includes areas administered by the BLM such as national monuments, conservation areas, wilderness study areas, scenic trails or historic trails designated as a component of the National Trails System, components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and public land within the CDCA administered by the BLM for conservation purposes (Section 2002 of the Act).

116-2

The NLCS brings into a single system some of the BLM's premier designations. Inclusion in the NLCS does not create any new legal protections for the lands already designated as national monuments, conservation areas, wilderness study areas, scenic trails, or historic trails designated as a component of the National Trails System, components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System or components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. However, inclusion in the NLCS system will create new legal protections for conservation lands in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). The BLM is using the land use plan amendment element of the DRECP to define which lands within the CDCA are included in the NLCS; identified as "National Conservation Lands."

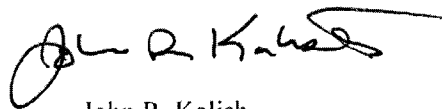
The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 states that NLCS lands "shall" include public land within the CDCA administered by the BLM for conservation purposes [Section 2002(b)(2)(D)]. The DRECP planning process provides the first opportunity to complete these land use plan decisions, involving NLCS lands, within these Coachella Valley and adjacent lands. For this reason, we reaffirmed the conservation land designations of our existing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in this area and proposed NLCS designations for these ACECs as provided for in the Act. These areas included the Chuckwalla, Dos Palmas, Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard, Big Morongo and Whitewater ACECs. In addition, we included several other proposed land use plan amendments within these lands including designating visual resource management (VRM) classes for lands previously left undesignated; designating a special recreation management area on lands presently managed for conservation in the Big Morongo, Whitewater and San Gorgonio Wilderness areas; and designating a national trail corridor encompassing the Pacific Crest Trail.

We do not consider that these proposals would infringe on non-federal lands within this area including areas of concern to the county including San Gorgonio Pass wind energy area or the Salton Sea area. These proposed designations pertain only to BLM lands. The proposed VRM classes reflect existing and foreseeable land uses. The other proposed designations are within or directly associated with existing BLM conservation areas and are considered to be compatible with management of adjacent, non-federal lands under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). In addition, there are no buffer areas around BLM lands identified or contemplated within this proposed land use plan amendment that would affect non-federal lands.

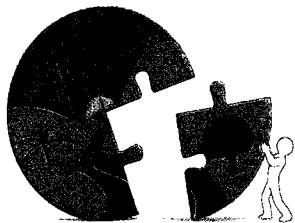
We will continue to coordinate with Riverside County on proposed uses of public lands throughout the county. We recognize the impacts that public land management has on county residents and services and welcome close coordination on any potential issues arising from this land use planning process or other land use proposals.

We anticipate release of the DRECP BLM Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final EIS in mid-November, 2015. I look forward to discussing this final document with you upon its release. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



John R. Kalish  
Field Manager



# RIVERSIDE COUNTY

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# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Steve Weiss, AICP  
Planning Director

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 29, 2016  
**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**From:** TLMA-Planning  
**Re:** **Agenda Item 16-2**

Attached are two correspondences to the Board of Supervisors that were received after mailing out the staff report packet. County Counsel will respond to these correspondences as part of the staff report.

1. March 28, 2016, letter with attachments from the Colorado River Indian Tribes
2. March 28, 2016, email from the San Geronimo Chapter of the Sierra Club

In response to comments from the Large-Scale Solar Association (LSA) which their correspondence will be covered in detail during the staff presentation, Staff is also making the following recommendations to specific policies proposed in General Plan Amendment No. 1153:

1. To better clarify the current status of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and actions regarding the second phase of the DRECP, staff recommends the following edits to policy LU 41.6 to read:

*"Once the second phase of Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is finalized and adopted by the State, the County shall examine existing General Plan land use designations for all private land falling within the DRECP boundaries and may consider revisions as deemed appropriate by the County in the next General Plan update, after a noticed public hearing. Particular emphasis should be given to land use designations reflecting potential renewable energy development on high-priority lands within identified Development Focus Areas and for conservation designations reflecting adopted conservation areas, as deemed appropriate by the County."*

2. Staff recommends deleting proposed policy LU 38.3 (and the identical policy as set forth in each of the area plans – as policies ECVAP 3.3, WCVAP 5.3, DCAP 3.3, PVVAP 3.3, PAP 7.3, REMAP 3.3) so it is clear the County has no intention to apply wilderness regulations on private lands. The remaining wilderness policies in the Land use Element and the subject area plans are to be renumbered accordingly.
3. Staff recommends the following revision to policy LU 41.4d so as to emphasize the fact that a process currently exists for identifying significant tribal cultural resources and for tribal consultation under Assembly Bill (AB) 52:

MEMORANDUM

March 29, 2016

Page 2

*“Analyze potential significant impacts (including reasonably foreseeable indirect and cumulative impacts) on any tribal cultural resources known or expected to occur on the project site, and outline how the project will minimize, reduce or avoid any such significant impacts to the maximum extent feasible.”*

Attachments:

1. March 28, 2016, letter with attachments the Colorado River Indian Tribes
2. Three (3) separate emails from the San Geronio Chapter of the Sierra Club
3. March 25, 2016, letter from the Large-Scale Solar Association

**Attachment 1**





# COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

*Colorado River Indian Reservation*

26600 MOHAVE ROAD  
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344  
TELEPHONE (928) 669-1220  
FAX (928) 669-1216

March 28, 2016

*Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail*

Board of Supervisors  
Riverside County  
4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor  
Riverside, California 92501

Cindy A. Thielman-Braun  
Project Planner  
Riverside County Planning Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor  
Riverside, California 92501

**Re: Comments of the Colorado River Indian Tribes on Riverside  
County Proposed General Plan Amendment No. 1153 and the  
Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Colorado River Indian Tribes ("CRIT" or "the Tribes") submits the following comments on the Riverside County General Plan Amendment ("GPA") No. 1153 and its accompanying environmental analysis. As we previously explained to the Riverside County Planning Commission prior to its February 24, 2016 meeting, the Tribes only became aware of this GPA the day before the Planning Commission meeting and had no chance to review the proposed amendment or consult with Riverside County regarding potential cultural resource impacts. We requested that the Planning Commission suspend consideration of GPA No. 1153 and the Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration to allow for Tribal review and consultation prior to the Planning Commission consideration, but were told that the timeline for the underlying funding of the GPA was such that the Planning Commission could not comply with our request. We now submit these comments in advance of the Board of Supervisors' March 29, 2016 hearing regarding the GPA and Notice of Intent.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes is a federally recognized Indian tribe comprised of over 4,200 members belonging to the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo tribes. The approximately 300,000-acre Colorado River Indian Reservation sits astride the Colorado River between Blythe, California and Parker, Arizona. The ancestral homelands of the Colorado River Indian Tribes' members, however, extend far beyond the Reservation boundaries. Indeed, significant portions of public and private lands in Riverside County were once occupied by the ancestors of the Tribes' Mohave and Chemehuevi members since time immemorial. Because of this, the Tribes are very concerned with land use planning policies like those in GPA No. 1153 that impact the footprint of these Mohave and Chemehuevi ancestors.

In particular, the Tribes are troubled by the GPA's focus on siting utility-scale renewable energy in their ancestral territory; even more alarming is the County's apparent conclusion that no Tribal Cultural Resources will be significantly impacted by industrial-scale utility development there. The Tribes have submitted numerous comments to Riverside County regarding the cultural importance of these lands and the harm caused by development there. Indeed, while this GPA was being developed, the Tribes and Riverside County were engaged in litigation over the cultural resource impacts of a solar energy project located in the Tribes' ancestral lands near Blythe. The Tribes have consistently expressed their concerns regarding the cultural resource sensitivity of eastern Riverside County, the harm caused by proposed development there, and culturally-appropriate mitigation measures. As a result, the Tribes must object to any general plan amendment that expands the scope or intensity of utility-scale energy development on undeveloped land in these areas.

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- **Prioritize avoidance of cultural resources and landscapes whenever possible.** In discussing siting of wind energy, solar energy, and transmission lines, the Land Use Element acknowledges that care must be taken to protect natural resources, including cultural resources, but provides no actionable direction in helping the County carry out these protections. This language should be revised to state that future energy growth should be sited in a way that avoids sensitive cultural resources and cultural landscapes whenever possible.

- See, e.g., Land Use Element LU-35, -37, -39 to -40.



- **Incorporate reburial as a mitigation strategy.** Utility-scale energy projects like those contemplated in the proposed amendment have the potential to disturb and unearth cultural resources that have been buried for thousands of years. In the Mohave tradition, these artifacts are considered sacred and removing them from the ground is taboo. For this reason, where total avoidance is not possible, reburial is the Tribes' preferred method of cultural resource mitigation. Riverside County has previously incorporated a reburial policy into the permitting for solar energy projects like Blythe Mesa; the Tribes now ask that this reburial policy be incorporated into the General Plan to ensure that reburial is a key mitigation strategy for impacts to buried cultural resources due to energy development.
- **Emphasize tribal consultation, not just "coordination."** As the County is aware, AB 52 now requires the County to consult with any requesting tribes who have affiliation to cultural resources that could be impacted by one of the County's projects. This consultation must take place before the County issues any CEQA review documents regarding the proposed project. Yet, despite California's codified tribal consultation requirement, the General Plan amendment frequently refers to "coordination" with tribes, rather than consultation. This language ignores the mandate in AB 52 and inappropriately replaces formal consultation with some type of lesser, undefined requirement. The County should revise all language promising "coordination" with tribes to indicate that the County will "consult" with tribes.<sup>1</sup>
  - See, e.g., Multipurpose Open Space Element OS 10.4; Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan ECVAP AP 2.14.
- **"Best" locations for renewable energy siting may have competing resource values.** Much of the proposed amendment to the Land Use Element of the General Plan focuses on appropriate siting of renewable energy, especially utility-scale solar and wind projects. The Land Use Element identifies the undeveloped land between the Coachella Valley and the Arizona border as key to future solar development. See LU-37. Yet, as the Tribes explained to the Planning Commission, these lands in eastern Riverside County are part of their Mohave and

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<sup>1</sup> The Tribes submitted an AB 52 consultation request letter to Riverside County on October 8, 2015. We recently received a letter from the County indicating that our letter had not been received, so we resent our consultation request letter for the County's convenience (see attached letters).

Chemehuevi ancestral territory and have great cultural significance to the Tribes. Indeed, the Tribes identified these areas as sacred as early as 1980 during the federal government's creation of the California Desert Conservation Area. Unfortunately, the Tribes' input did not prevent BLM from designating the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone and approving a number of projects within and adjacent to these culturally sensitive areas (see attached map). The Tribes fear that if Riverside County does not revise the language of its GPA to better prioritize cultural resource protection and mitigation, the County could make the same devastating energy siting choices.

- **Disturbed agricultural lands may not be free of cultural resource impacts.** The Land Use Element expresses a preference for siting solar energy on previously disturbed agricultural lands. While the Tribes agree that disturbed agricultural lands may give rise to fewer resource impacts, LU-17.6 should be revised to state that the County will still consult with tribes to ensure that projects on these lands would not have significant cultural resource impacts, especially where the projects would require grading at a depth below the agricultural plow line, exacerbate damage to trails, or impact sacred viewsheds and landscapes.
- **Support for distributed generation.** The Tribes wishes to express its strong support for distributed generation (a.k.a. rooftop solar) as an alternative to utility-scale energy developments in the desert. We applaud Riverside County for its inclusion of Multipurpose Open Space Element OS 12.6 and encourage the County to continue prioritizing these types of energy alternatives.

We appreciate your time in reviewing these comments and request a written response to our concerns. Also, given the spiritual and cultural significance of the land at issue, we request government-to-government consultation with the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Please copy Colorado River Indian Tribes' Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, David Harper (928-669-5822), Rebecca Loudbear, Attorney General, and Nancy Jасulca, Deputy Attorney General, in the CRIT Office of the Attorney General ([rloudbear@critdoj.com](mailto:rloudbear@critdoj.com) and [njasculca@critdoj.com](mailto:njasculca@critdoj.com)) on any correspondence.

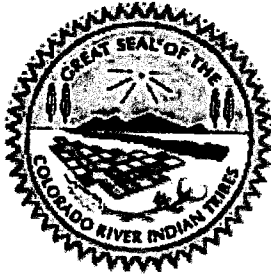
Sincerely,  
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

  
Dennis Patch  
Chairman

Board of Supervisors  
March 28, 2016  
Page 5

CC: Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Rebecca A. Loudbear, Attorney General for the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
David Harper, Director, CRIT THPO

Encls. (2)



# COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

*Colorado River Indian Reservation*

26600 MOHAVE ROAD  
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344  
TELEPHONE (928) 669-1220  
FAX (928) 669-1216

March 21, 2016

**Sent Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested,  
United States Mail, and E-mail**

Heather Thomson, County Archaeologist (hthomson@rcplma.org)  
Riverside County Planning Department  
P.O. Box 1409  
Riverside, CA 92502-1409

RE: **AB 52 Consultation for Riverside County Projects**

Dear Ms. Thomson,

Thank you for your letter dated February 26, 2016. We are enclosing a copy of our letter dated October 8, 2015 to Riverside County requesting formal notice of and information on proposed projects within Riverside County's jurisdiction pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. As stated in the enclosed letter, areas that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Colorado River Indian Tribes include Riverside County.

In addition to providing notification to Tribal Secretary Amanda Barrera and the CRIT Attorney General's Office, please also provide courtesy notice of proposed projects to David Harper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer at [critthpo@crit-nsn.gov](mailto:critthpo@crit-nsn.gov).

Thank you in advance for your courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

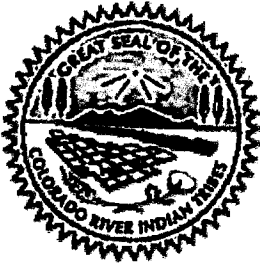
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Patch".

Dennis Patch  
Chairman

Cc: Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
David Harper, Director, THPO (via e-mail only)  
Rebecca A. Loudbear, CRIT Attorney General (via e-mail only)

Encl.





# **COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES**

*Colorado River Indian Reservation*

26600 MOHAVE ROAD  
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344  
TELEPHONE (928) 669-1220  
FAX (928) 669-1216

**Sent Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested  
And United States Mail**

October 8, 2015

Riverside County  
Attn: Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor  
Riverside, California 92501

**RE: California Environmental Quality Act Public Resources Code § 21080.3(b)  
Request for Formal Notification of Proposed Projects Within the Colorado  
River Indian Tribe's Geographic Area of Traditional and Cultural  
Affiliation**

Dear Supervisors:

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1(b), the Colorado River Indian Tribes, which is traditionally and culturally affiliated with lands within Riverside County's geographic area of jurisdiction, requests formal notice of and information on proposed projects for which Riverside County will serve as a lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Specifically, we request formal notification of proposed projects in geographic areas that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Colorado River Indian Tribes which include Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial Counties.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b), and until further notice, we hereby designate the following person as the tribe's lead contact person for purposes of receiving notices of proposed projects from Riverside County:

**Name- Amanda Barrera  
Title- Tribal Secretary  
Address- 26600 Mohave Road, Parker, Arizona 85344  
Phone Number(s)- (928) 669-1280 and (928) 669-1219  
Fax Number- (928) 669-1216  
Email Address- Amanda.Barrera@crit-nsn.gov**

We request that all notices be sent via certified U.S. Mail with return receipt. Following receipt and review of the information your agency provides, within the 30-day period proscribed by Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(d), the Colorado River Indian Tribes may request consultation, as defined by Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b) and Government Code section 65352.4, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes view AB 52 as a significant opportunity for California public agencies to establish productive government-to-government consultation relationships with Indian tribes. As county agencies begin to implement AB 52's requirements, we urge you to institute consultation procedures that take into consideration the following:


- Consultation should occur in person, between individuals or entities that have sufficient knowledge and decisionmaking authority. For the Colorado River Indian Tribes, consultation must occur with the Tribal Council.
- Consultation must involve seeking information and opinions from affected tribes and addressing tribes' concerns, where feasible, through project conditions and mitigation measures. Providing tribes with information about a project or its potential impacts on cultural resources, while important, does not constitute consultation.
- The Tribes often provide information, comments, and opinions via letter. To ensure effective communication, these letters must be responded to in advance of in-person meetings. Simply adding such letters to an administrative record without comment or response is not respectful of the effort made by the Colorado River Indian Tribes to provide important information about irreplaceable cultural resources.
- Consultation must begin early in the process of project review. Consultation cannot be effective when a particular project iteration has already gained momentum or decisionmakers have already made up their minds.
- Consultation must be respectful of the unique constraints on tribal governments. Many tribal governments—including the Colorado River Indian Tribes—face significant demands with limited resources. In addition, review of and comment on cultural resource impacts necessarily involves multiple tribal entities, including Tribal Council, Elders committees, museum staff, cultural resource departments, tribal historic preservation officers, and/or legal staff. Coordination among these important and varied entities requires sufficient time for review and response.
- As consultation under Government Code section 65352.4 requires lead agencies to "where feasible, seek[] agreement" with Indian tribes, the Colorado Indian River Tribes request that lead agencies provide a written feasibility assessment whenever agreement cannot be met. Such findings will allow tribes to evaluate whether lead agencies have adequately complied with this consultation requirement.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes believe that by establishing this framework early, California public agencies can set a strong example of respectful and effective consultation with Indian tribes. In addition, this effort can help avoid the conflicts and legal challenges that have defined consultation with the federal government.

///

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact our lead contact person listed above. We also request that Riverside County send courtesy copies of all notifications and correspondence to the attention of Rebecca A. Loudbear, Attorney General for the Colorado River Indian Tribes Office, at 26600 Mohave Road, Parker, Arizona 85344, and via email at rloudbear@critdoj.com. Finally, we ask that Riverside County send a written response to this letter to our lead contact person, confirming receipt of the Tribes' request, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)(1).

Sincerely,



Dennis Patch  
Chairman, Colorado River Indian Tribes

CC: Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Rebecca A. Loudbear, Attorney General for the Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Rob Wood, Native American Heritage Commission





## **Weiss, Steven**

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**From:** Joan Taylor <palmcanyon@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:10 PM  
**To:** COB  
**Cc:** Olivas, Jay; Lovelady, Kristi  
**Subject:** Item 16.2 comments on GPA 1153, Tuesday 3/29/16 hearing

Please deliver these comments to the Board for inclusion in the record of this matter, thank you.

Chairman and Members of the Board:

These additional comments are being submitted on behalf of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club with regard to GPA 1153.

Staff report to the Board responded that our earlier recommendation to update and improve the wildlife protections related to renewable energy would be better accomplished by updating County Ordinance 348 Secs 19.41 and 18.42 on WECS. Point taken. However, none of the provisions of the above Ordinance specifically address avian mortality or the measures appropriate to avoid, minimize and mitigate it.

Unfortunately, the County's Wind Implementation Monitoring Program (WIMP), which may deal with this issue, is in hardcopy only and not readily available for review. Please see the recent communique from County staff, forwarded separately. To our knowledge, neither the wind provisions in Ordinance 348 nor the WIMP have been updated in the last five years, so we request that an update to these policies be initiated, and the Sierra Club be notified of any opportunities to work with the County on this important issue. This is particularly important because the County's permits for WECS are limited to 30 years, and there will be increasing applications for re-powering older turbines in the San Gorgonio Pass wind resource area over time. The new, much larger turbines will have different impacts from the older ones, and to date there has been little to no avian mortality monitoring of wind projects, so there is a scant baseline information.

With regard to solar projects, GPA 1153 at LU 17.2 has language limiting utility scale solar to slopes of 25% or less, except under unusual circumstances. Normally utility scale solar is feasible on slopes of 5% or less, which is the metric used by NREL and others, and would be an appropriate figure rather than 25%.

In the discussion of the Salton Sea, at EVC AP 2.12, the creation of shallow water habitat is mentioned. However, it is also critical for County policy to support maintenance of a significant portion of the Salton Sea as deep water habitat, capable of supporting the Sea's fishery, both to preserve avian migration and to act as a tourism/ recreational amenity for the area.

The Pass Area Plan is included in the documents affected by this GPA, but there is no evidence of any proposed changes. It seems that some mention of wind energy industrial uses would be appropriate in the Pass Area Plan. Likewise, for the Western Coachella Valley Area Plan. These are the Plans that include much of the San Gorgonio Pass Wind Resource Area.

In sum, Sierra Club appreciates the County's update insofar as it goes, and looks forward to the opportunity to work with the County on updating its wind energy policies to be congruent with current thinking on protecting avian resources (such as incorporating the California Energy Commission Wind Guidelines). Further, we look forward to participating in any future discussions of a "Phase 2" for DRECP as it affects Riverside County.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment GPA 1153.

**Attachment 2**



## **Weiss, Steven**

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**From:** Joan Taylor <palmcanyon@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:12 PM  
**To:** COB  
**Cc:** Olivas, Jay; Lovelady, Kristi  
**Subject:** Re Item 16.2 GPA 1153, attachment Fwd: Riv Co WIMP

This is an attachment to the Sierra Club comments on GPA 1153.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Olivas, Jay" <JOLIVAS@rctlma.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Riv Co WIMP  
**Date:** March 25, 2016 at 1:37:27 PM PDT  
**To:** 'Joan Taylor' <palmcanyon@mac.com>  
**Cc:** "Lovelady, Kristi" <KLOVELAD@rctlma.org>, "Baez, Ken" <KBAEZ@rctlma.org>

Thanks for inquiry, I would need to plan to visit main office to pull the latest WIMP studies from the archives and would need 1-2 weeks to do so. Don't believe these were made into electronic versions since they are from early 80s and 90s (paper copies only). There were some basic attempts to update the WIMP, but don't believe very many new wind farms over past 10 years or so in the county jurisdiction. So has not been extensive interest in new studies, but you are more than welcome to review the completed older WIMP Studies I/II/III. Will keep informed.

Jay Olivas, Urban Regional Planner IV  
Riverside County Planning Dept.  
77588 El Duna Ct. Ste. H  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
Ph: (760) 863-7050  
[jolivas@rctlma.org](mailto:jolivas@rctlma.org)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joan Taylor [<mailto:palmcanyon@mac.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2016 11:09 AM  
**To:** Olivas, Jay; Thielman-Braun, Cindy  
**Cc:** Jay Olivas; Lovelady, Kristi  
**Subject:** Re: Riv Co WIMP

Per my phone message a week ago, I'm still waiting to find out where the current WIMP can be accessed. Please advise, thank you.

On Mar 10, 2016, at 7:47 AM, Joan Taylor <[palmcanyon@mac.com](mailto:palmcanyon@mac.com)> wrote:

I'm reviewing GPA and it would be helpful to see a supporting document. Could you please email me the

**Weiss, Steven**

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**From:** Piantadosi, Debra  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:21 PM  
**To:** Perez, Juan  
**Cc:** Weiss, Steven  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on item 16.2, GPA 1153, 3.29.16 hearing

Sent to me through the TLMA Website (2 of 3) -----Original Message-----

From: [palmcanyon@mac.com](mailto:palmcanyon@mac.com) [mailto:[palmcanyon@mac.com](mailto:palmcanyon@mac.com)]

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 4:09 PM

To: Piantadosi, Debra

Subject: Comments on item 16.2, GPA 1153, 3.29.16 hearing

THIS EMAIL HAS BEEN SUBMITTED VIA THE RCTLMA WEBSITE.

Please deliver these comments to the Board for inclusion in the record of this matter, thank you.

Chairman and Members of the Board:

These additional comments are being submitted on behalf of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club with regard to GPA 1153.

Staff report to the Board responded that our earlier recommendation to update and improve the wildlife protections related to renewable energy would be better accomplished by updating County Ordinance 348 Secs 19.41 and 18.42 on WECS. Point taken. However, none of the provisions of the above Ordinance specifically address avian mortality or the measures appropriate to avoid, minimize and mitigate it.

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In the discussion of the Salton Sea, at EVC AP 2.12, the creation of shallow water habitat is mentioned. However, it is also critical for County policy to support maintenance of a significant portion of the Salton Sea as deep water habitat, capable of supporting the Sea's fishery, both to preserve avian migration and to act as a tourism/ recreational amenity for the area.

The Pass Area Plan is included in the documents affected by this GPA, but there is no evidence of any proposed changes. It seems that some mention of wind energy industrial uses would be appropriate in the Pass Area Plan.

## **Weiss, Steven**

---

**From:** Piantadosi, Debra  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:21 PM  
**To:** Perez, Juan  
**Cc:** Weiss, Steven  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on GPA 1153

**Importance:** High

Sent to me through the TLMA website (1 of 3) -----Original Message-----

From: [palmcanyon@mac.com](mailto:palmcanyon@mac.com) [<mailto:palmcanyon@mac.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 4:08 PM

To: Piantadosi, Debra

Subject: Comments on GPA 1153

THIS EMAIL HAS BEEN SUBMITTED VIA THE RCTLMA WEBSITE.

Please deliver these comments to the Board for inclusion in the record of this matter, thank you.

Chairman and Members of the Board:

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Likewise, for the Western Coachella Valley Area Plan. These are the Plans that include much of the San Gorgonio Pass Wind Resource Area.

In sum, Sierra Club appreciates the County's update insofar as it goes, and looks forward to the opportunity to work with the County on updating its wind energy policies to be congruent with current thinking on protecting avian resources (such as incorporating the California Energy Commission Wind Guidelines). Further, we look forward to participating in any future discussions of a Phase 2 for DRECP as it affects Riverside County.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment GPA 1153.

Very truly yours,

Joan Taylor, Energy Chair  
San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club

## Weiss, Steven

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**From:** Piantadosi, Debra  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:22 PM  
**To:** Perez, Juan  
**Cc:** Weiss, Steven  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on item 16.2, GPA 1153, 3.29.16 hearing

**Importance:** High

Sent to me through the TLMA website (3 of 3)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [palmcanyon@mac.com](mailto:palmcanyon@mac.com) [mailto:palmcanyon@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:09 PM  
**To:** Piantadosi, Debra  
**Subject:** Comments on item 16.2, GPA 1153, 3.29.16 hearing

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Chairman and Members of the Board:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment GPA 1153.

Very truly yours,

Joan Taylor, Energy Chair  
San Geronio Chapter of the Sierra Club

**Attachment 3**





March 25, 2016

Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor  
Riverside, California 92502-1409

Electronically submitted to Cindy Thielman-Braun at [cthielma@rctlma.org](mailto:cthielma@rctlma.org)

**Subject: Riverside County General Plan Amendment to expand existing renewable energy policies to facilitate renewable energy development in the County**

Dear Members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

The Large-scale Solar Association (LSA) is a non-partisan solar industry group whose purpose is to support utility-scale solar penetration through appropriate policy mechanisms. Member companies in the LSA represent leaders in the utility-scale solar industry. Collectively, LSA's members have generated thousands of construction jobs and dozens of permanent clean-tech jobs for the County. Riverside County is home to over 1,500 MW of large-scale solar either online or under construction this year, and we appreciate the County's efforts to permit environmentally responsible large-scale solar facilities.

LSA is supportive of your efforts to expand the existing renewable energy policies to facilitate additional renewable energy development in the County, and finds the General Plan Amendment to be a positive step for the industry. With that in mind, LSA remains unclear on the interaction between the BLM's Final Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) under the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Framework and the County's future actions to permit renewable energy on private lands. The Land Use Element states that "*Once the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is finalized and adopted by the State, the County shall examine existing General Plan land use designations for all private land falling within the DRECP boundaries and consider revisions as deemed appropriate in the next General Plan update. Particular emphasis should be given to land use designations reflecting potential renewable energy development on high-priority lands within identified Development Focus Areas and for conservation designations reflecting adopted conservation areas, as appropriate.*"<sup>1</sup> LSA would appreciate the opportunity to continue discussions with the County around the DRECP process, as it is not clear how 'Phase 2' of the DRECP will take shape.

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<sup>1</sup> Land use element, p. LU-82

LSA has three additional concerns with regard to the following components of the General Plan Amendment: (1) the potential expansion of wilderness protections within the county, (2) treatment of tribal cultural resources, and (3) favoritism of projects with specific attributes.

In particular, we are concerned that the County's addition of the Wilderness Policy Area and associated policies has potential to extend the protections that currently exist on BLM land to adjacent private lands. In evaluating the potential impacts of projects on private land that is adjacent to BLM wilderness land, the County should consider the vast amount of federal land that is slated for protection under the BLM's Final LUPA, and should not expand the undevelopable footprint. Furthermore, LSA would appreciate clarification from the County that the County does not have the authority to designate new wilderness areas, or to prevent exploration of responsible solar development on "areas with wilderness characteristics" (as suggested in LU 40.3). Such a policy may effectively expand designated wilderness areas by providing similar protection to private lands with wilderness characteristics.

Regarding tribal cultural resources, LU 41.4d addresses mitigation for impacts to "any tribal cultural resources." This should be qualified as "significant" tribal cultural resources. Otherwise, there would be no limit on what could be called a tribal cultural resource. LSA would like to emphasize the fact that a process currently exists for identifying significant tribal cultural resources and for tribal consultation under AB 52.

With regard to the County's selection of specific technologies or project characteristics, LSA suggests that the County avoid encouragement of specific technologies or features over others in order to allow the suite of market forces to allow the best projects to proceed. In particular, OS 10.3 encourages renewable resources that have the least project footprint to move forward. There are numerous factors beyond the project's footprint that determine a project's viability. In another example, OS 12.5 encourages incorporation of battery storage into solar power plant projects. LSA suggests that the County refrain from selecting specific types of technology over others, so the County doesn't preclude consideration of the needs of the electrical grid and other state and national goals when evaluating technological options.

Overall, LSA looks forward to future engagement with Riverside County and appreciates your efforts to permit solar energy systems that will meet the needs of the State and the County for years to come.

Sincerely,

Danielle Mills  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Large-scale Solar Association

FOR BILLING INQUIRIES:  
CALL (951) 368-9710  
EMAIL [billinginquiry@pe.com](mailto:billinginquiry@pe.com)

DATE	ORDER NUMBER	PO Number	PRODUCT	SIZE	AMOUNT
3/9/16	0010143676	GPA 1153	PE Riverside	2 x 84 Li	243.60

RECEIVED RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
 CLERK / BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 2016 MAR 14 AM 11:42

*Planning  
16-2 of 03/29/16*

Placed by: cecilia gil

BALANCE DUE
243.60

**Legal Advertising Invoice**

SALES/CONTACT INFORMATION		ADVERTISER INFORMATION		
	BILLING DATE	BILLED ACCOUNT NUMBER	ADVERTISER/CLIENT NUMBER	ADVERTISER/CLIENT NAME
Kristin Gribbin 951-368-9223	03/09/2016	1100141323	1100141323	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

**FREEDOM**  
NEWS GROUP  
**THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE**  
**Legal Advertising Invoice**

ADVERTISER/CLIENT NAME		
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS		
BILLING DATE	BILLED ACCOUNT NUMBER	ADVERTISER/CLIENT NUMBER
03/09/2016	1100141323	1100141323
BALANCE DUE	ORDER NUMBER	TERMS OF PAYMENT
243.60	0010143676	DUE UPON RECEIPT

BILLING ACCOUNT NAME AND ADDRESS

REMITTANCE ADDRESS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
'P.O. BOX 1147'  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92502

The Press-Enterprise  
Dept LA 24453  
Pasadena, CA 91185-4453

# THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

1825 Chicago Ave, Suite 100  
Riverside, CA 92507  
951-684-1200  
951-368-9018 FAX

## PROOF OF PUBLICATION (2010, 2015.5 C.C.P)

Publication(s): The Press-Enterprise

### PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF

Ad Desc.: GPA 1153

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am an authorized representative of THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE, a newspaper in general circulation, printed and published daily in the County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California, under date of April 25, 1952, Case Number 54446, under date of March 29, 1957, Case Number 65673, under date of August 25, 1995, Case Number 267864, and under date of September 16, 2013, Case Number RIC 1309013; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in said newspaper in accordance with the instructions of the person(s) requesting publication, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

03/09/2016

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: Mar 09, 2016

At: Riverside, California

  
Legal Advertising Representative, The Press-Enterprise

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
P.O. BOX 1147  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92502

Ad Number: 0010143676-01

P.O. Number: GPA 1153

### Ad Copy:

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT COUNTY- WIDE AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing at which all interested persons will be heard, will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, on the 1st Floor Board Chambers, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, on **Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 10:30 A.M.** or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider the County-Initiated **General Plan Amendment No. 1153**, which proposes to amend the Riverside County General Plan to expand existing renewable energy policies to facilitate renewable energy development in the county, particularly the far eastern desert and Salton Sea regions. Proposed changes include Land Use Element text and policy changes to coordinate development of renewable energy in the Far Eastern Riverside County desert area (outside of existing Area Plans) and address both the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Solar Energy Program and the State's proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), Multipurpose Open Space Element revisions addressing renewable energy, including "emerging technologies," establishing Wilderness Policy Areas in six eastern Area Plans and the Salton Sea Renewable Energy Policy Area or the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan, Countywide.

The Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the project and adopt the Negative Declaration for **Environmental Assessment No. 42867**.

The project case file may be viewed from the date of this notice until the public hearing, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Riverside, California 92501, and at the Riverside County Planning Department at 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, California 92501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT CINDY A. THIELMAN-BRAUN, PROJECT PLANNER, AT (951) 955-8632 OR EMAIL [cthielma@rctlma.org](mailto:cthielma@rctlma.org).

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Alternative formats available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation, please contact Lisa Wagner at (951) 955-1063, 72 hours prior to the hearing.

Please send all written correspondence to: Clerk of the Board, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, CA 92502-1147

Dated: March 3, 2016  
Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

3/9

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67

RIVERSIDE COUNTY-BOARD OF SUP.  
 PO BOX 1147  
 RIVERSIDE CA 92502-1147

Customer No.	Invoice No.
RIV069	0005560462
For the Period	Thru
02/29/16	03/27/16
<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>
04/11/16	1,252.00
<b>AMOUNT PAID</b>	

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Date	EDT	Class	Description	Times Run	Col	Depth	Total Size	Rate	Amount
0229			BALANCE FORWARD						986.00
0309	CLS	0001	No 0346: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HE	2	2	65.00	260.00		266.00
									RECEIVED RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK / BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 2016 MAR 31 AM 11:57
				Planning 16-2 of 03/29/16					
Current		Over 30 Days	Over 60 Days	Over 90 Days	Over 120 Days	<b>Total Due</b>			
266.00		986.00	.00	.00	.00	<b>1,252.00</b>			
Contract Type	Contract Qnty.	Expiration Date	Current Usage	Total Used	Quantity Remaining	Salesperson			
						RYAN OPEN 0011			

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RIV069	RIVERSIDE COUNTY-BOARD OF SUP.	0005560462	



The Desert Sun  
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Palm Springs, CA 92262  
760-778-4578 / Fax 760-778-4731

## Certificate of Publication

State Of California ss:  
County of Riverside

Advertiser: RIVERSIDE COUNTY-BOARD OF SUP.  
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RIVERSIDE , CA 92501  
Order # 0001106712

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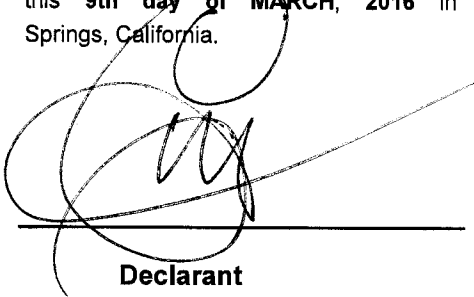
I am over the age of 18 years old, a citizen of the United States and not a party to, or have interest in this matter. I hereby certify that the attached advertisement appeared in said newspaper (set in type not smaller than non pariel) in each and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

Newspaper: The Desert Sun

3/9/2016

I acknowledge that I am a principal clerk of the printer of The Desert Sun, printed and published weekly in the City of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, State of California. The Desert Sun was adjudicated a Newspaper of general circulation on March 24, 1988 by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California Case No. 191236.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 9th day of MARCH, 2016 in Palm Springs, California.



Declarant

**Public Hearing**

No 0346: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT COUNTYWIDE AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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The Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the project and adopt the Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. 42867.

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Please send all written correspondence to: Clerk of the Board, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, CA 92502-1147  
Dated: March 3, 2016  
Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

Published: 3/9/16

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Dated: March 3, 2016

Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

16-2 of 03/29/16



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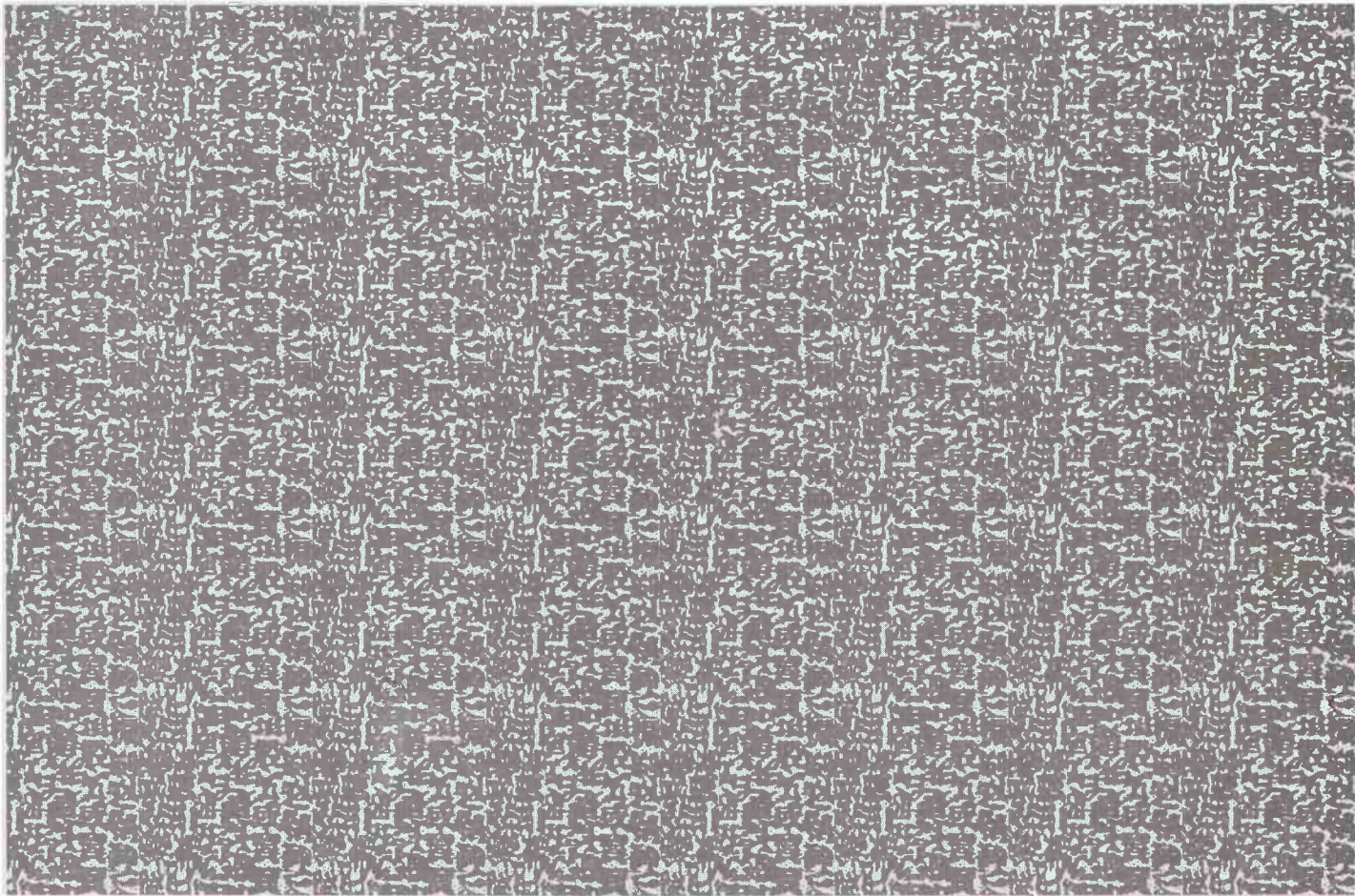
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16-2 of 03/29/16



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~~Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Southern California Agency  
Attn: Virgil Townsend,  
2038 Iowa Ave, Ste 101  
Riverside, CA 92507-0001~~

*[Handwritten signature]*

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
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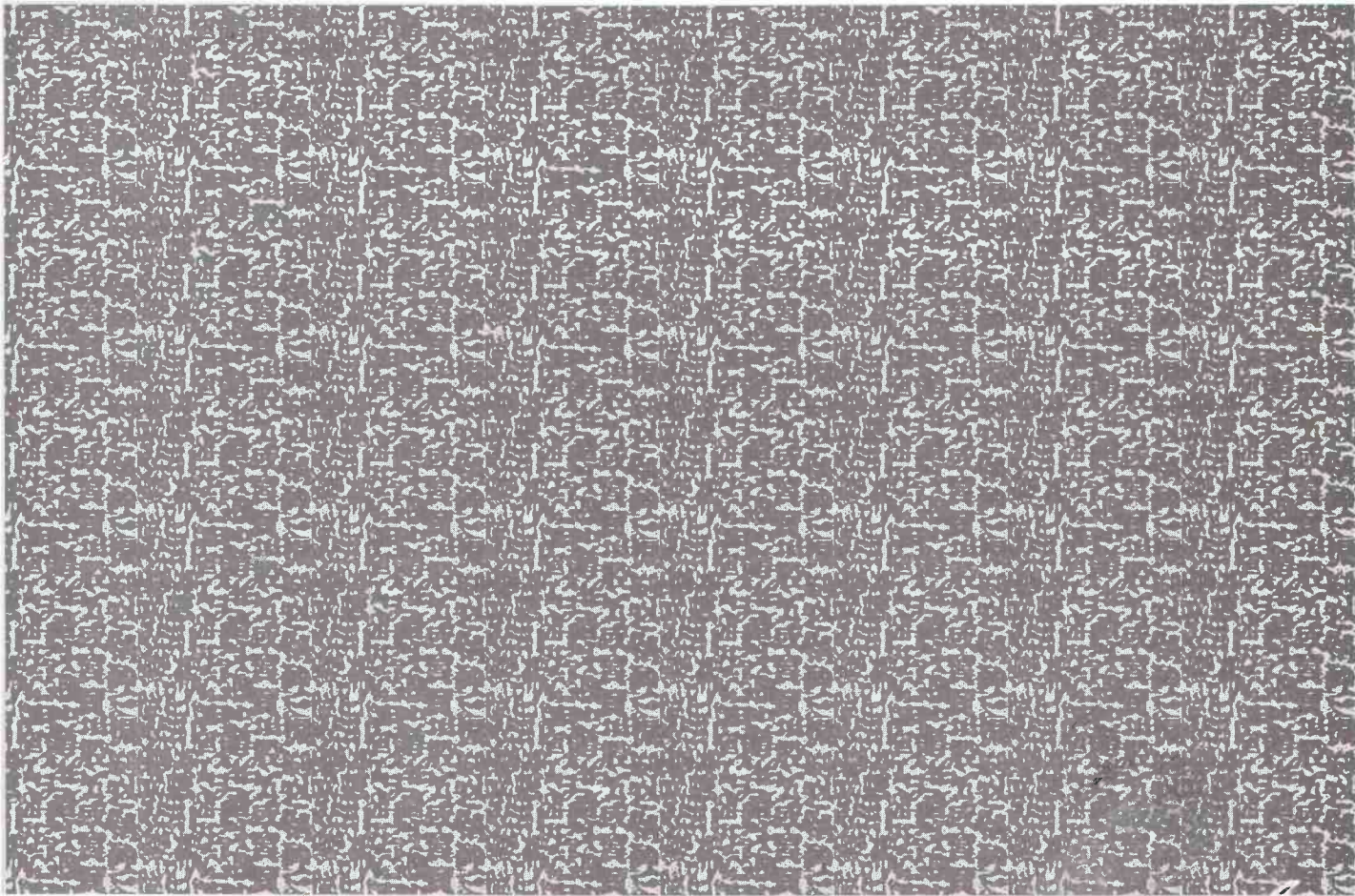
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County Administrative Center  
4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Annex  
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By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

*16-2 of 03/29/16*





Riverside County Clerk of the Board  
County Administrative Center  
4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Annex  
P. O. Box 1147  
Riverside, CA 92502-1147

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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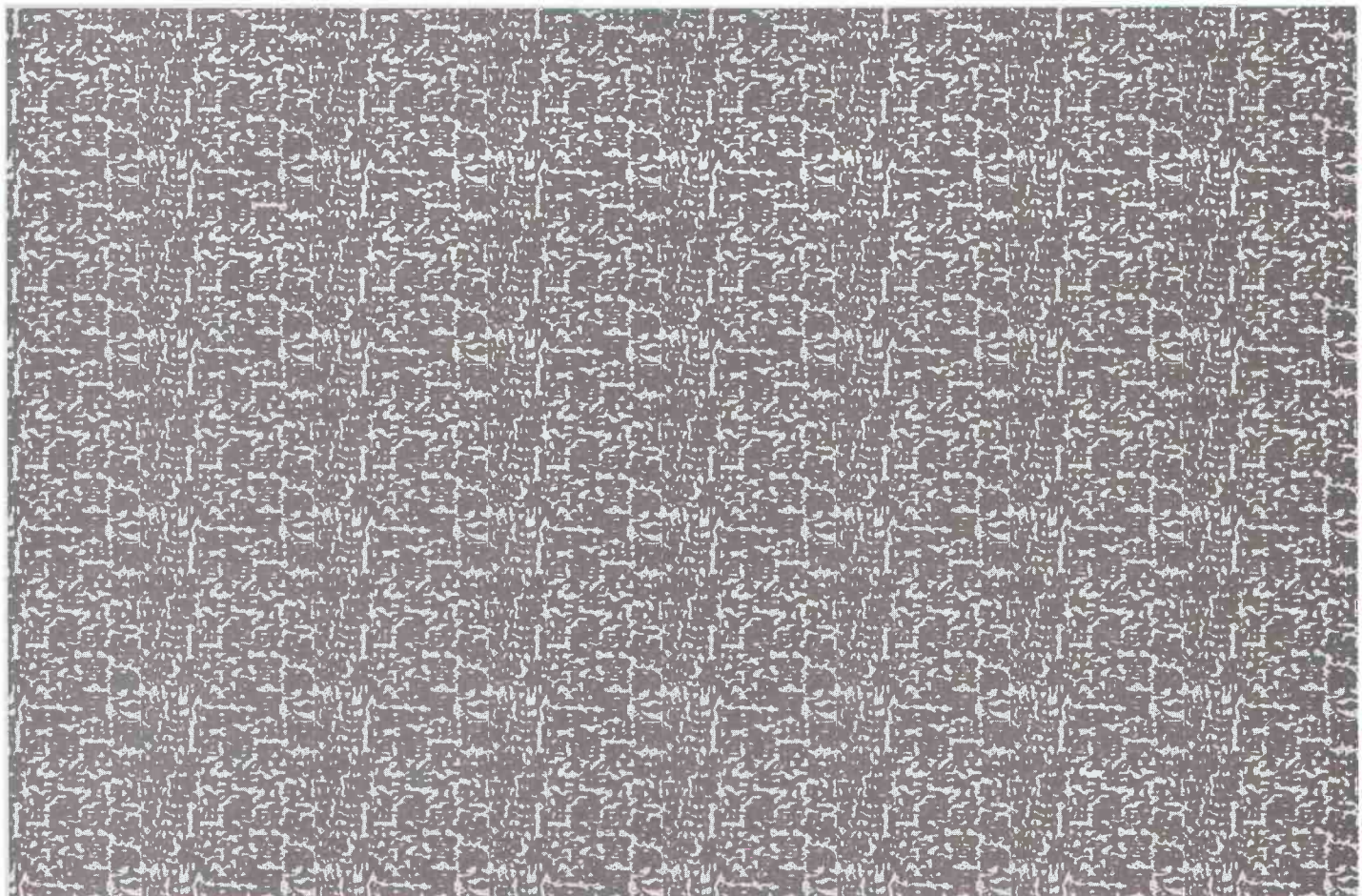
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Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Dept. of Interior  
650 E Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

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By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

16-2 of 03/29/16





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2016 MAR 14 AM 11:41

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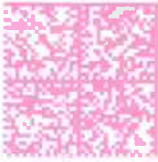
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
*This may affect your property*

Riverside County Clerk of the Board  
County Administrative Center  
4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Annex  
P. O. Box 1147  
Riverside, CA 92502-1147

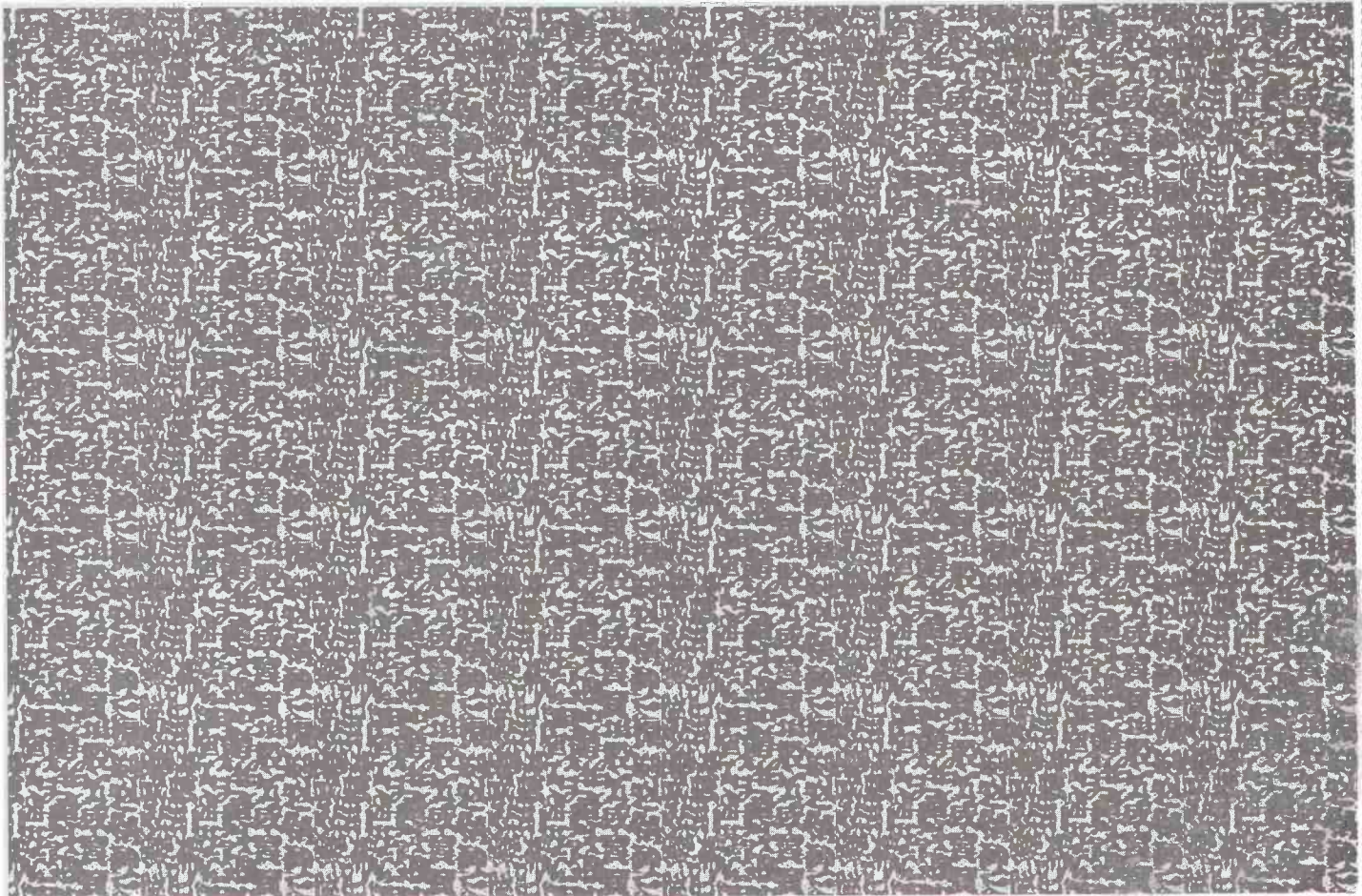


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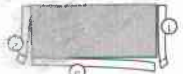
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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT COUNTYWIDE AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing at which all interested persons will be heard, will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Chambers, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, on **Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 10:30 A.M.** or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider the County-Initiated **General Plan Amendment No. 1153**, which proposes to amend the Riverside County General Plan to expand existing renewable energy policies to facilitate renewable energy development in the county, particularly the far eastern desert and Salton Sea regions. Proposed changes include Land Use Element text and policy changes to coordinate development of renewable energy in the Far Eastern Riverside County desert area (outside of existing Area Plans) and address both the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Solar Energy Program and the State's proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), Multipurpose Open Space Element revisions addressing renewable energy, including "emerging technologies," establishing Wilderness Policy Areas in six eastern Area Plans and the Salton Sea Renewable Energy Policy Area or the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan, Countywide.

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Please send all written correspondence to: Clerk of the Board, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, CA 92502-1147

Dated: March 3, 2016

Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

16-2 of 03/29/16



BVJ-LMB92008 147

BC: 92502114747 \*0852-04965-07-11

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NIXIE 914 TE 1260 0003/07/16

RECEIVED RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
CLERK / BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2016 MAR 14 AM 11:41

San Bernardino National Forest  
U.S. Forest Services  
1824 Commercenter Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408-3430

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
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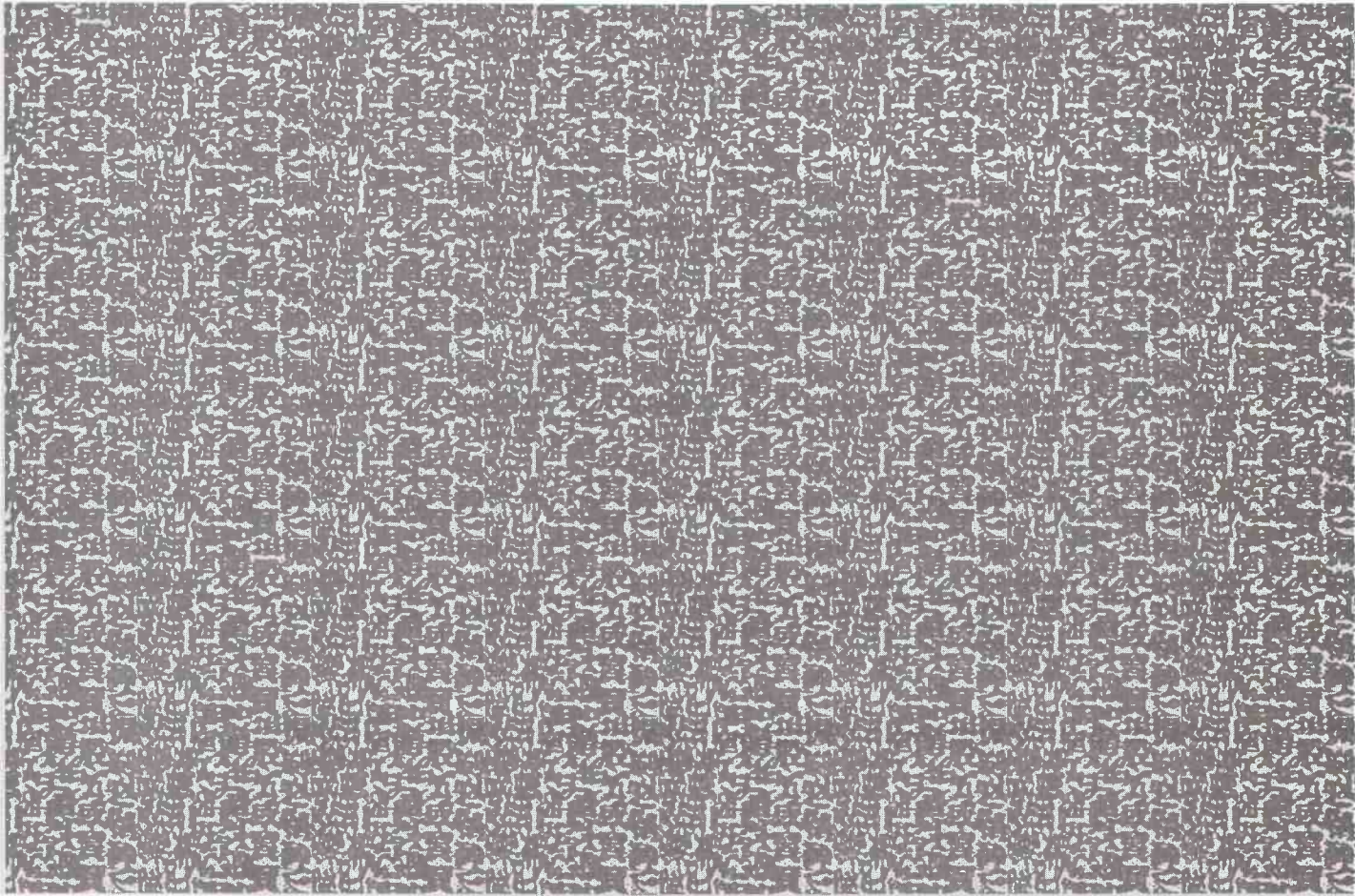
Riverside County Clerk of the Board  
County Administrative Center  
4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Annex  
P. O. Box 1147  
Riverside, CA 92502-1147



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Dated: March 3, 2016

Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

16-2 of 03/29/16



BY J-SMB 25929147

BC: 92502114747 \*2152-07056-10-17

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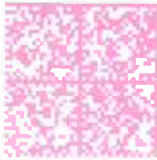
County of San Diego  
Planning Director  
5201 Ruffin Rd., Suite B  
San Diego, CA 92123

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
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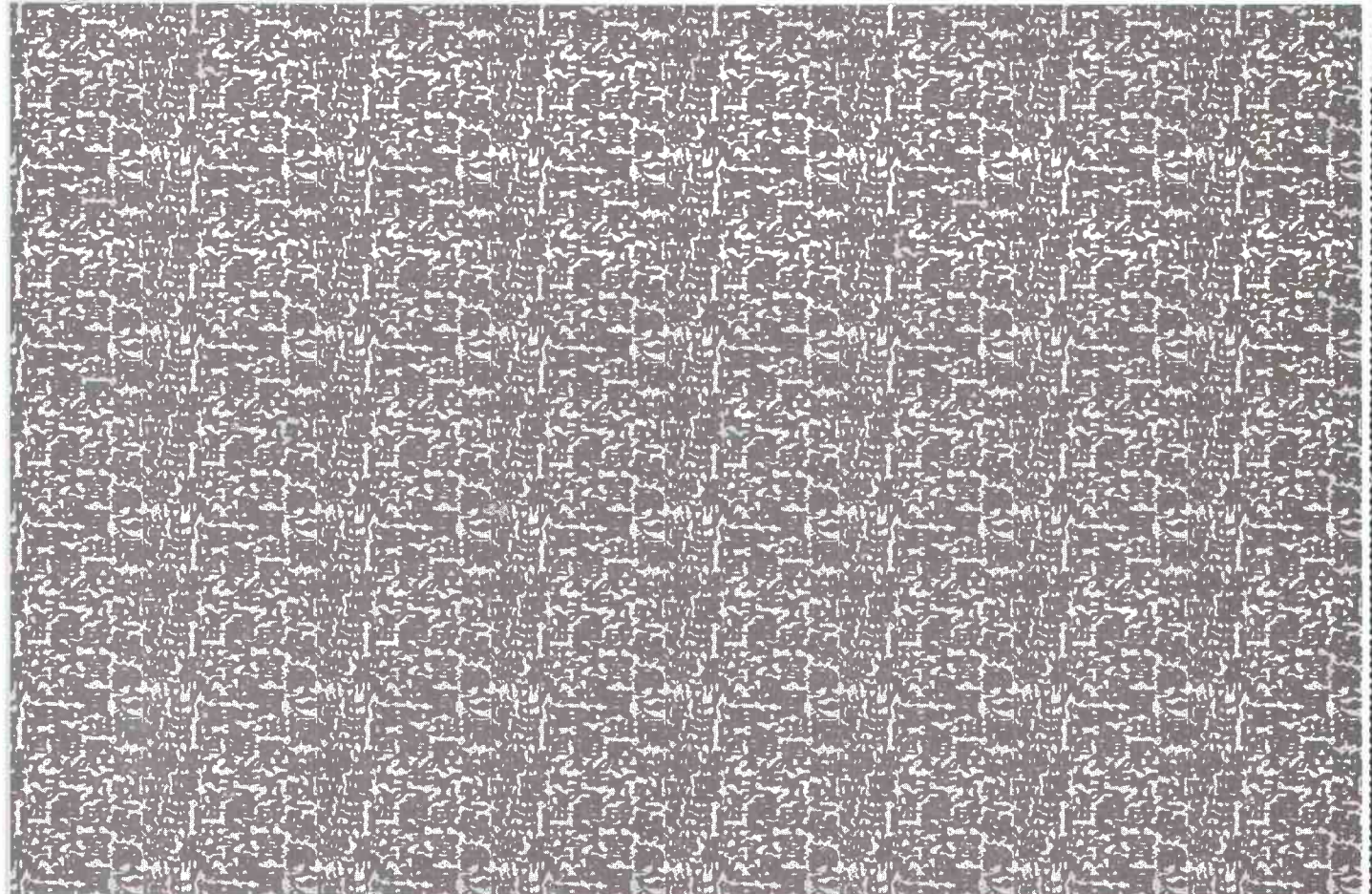
Riverside County Clerk of the Board  
County Administrative Center  
4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Annex  
P. O. Box 1147  
Riverside, CA 92502-1147



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Dated: March 3, 2016

Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

16-2 of 03/29/16





BVI-LWB 92011

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2016 MAR 15 AM 11:34

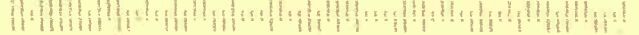
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Div. Manager, Ecological Services  
6010 Hidden Valley Rd.  
Carlsbad, CA 92011

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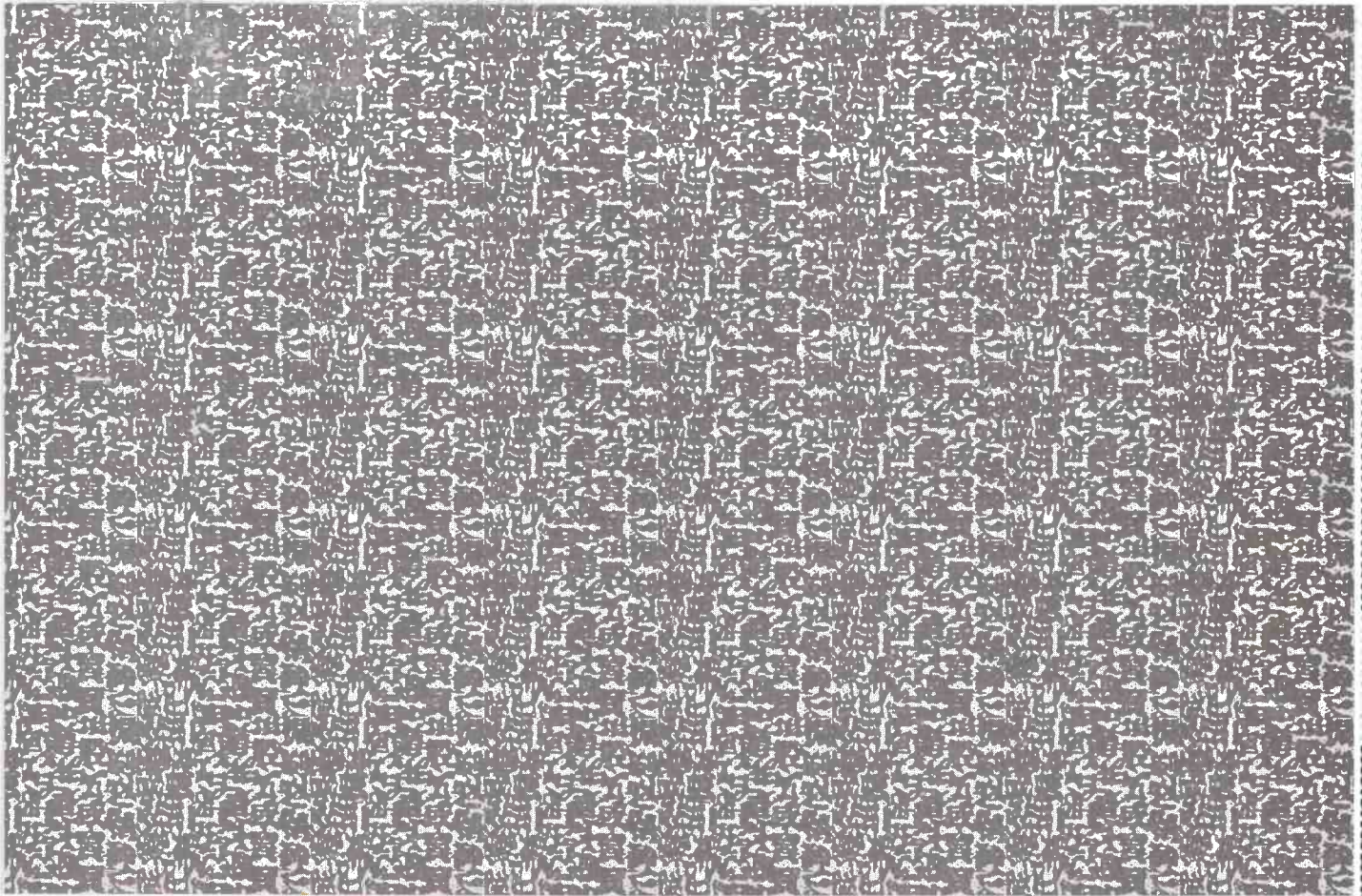


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Dated: March 3, 2016

Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

16-2 of 03/29/16



BC: 92502114747 \* 1052-03864-10-15

BV1-5502-01179 92374

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2016 MAR 15 AM 11:34

Verizon Engineering  
1980 Orange Tree Lane, Suite 100  
Redlands, CA 92374

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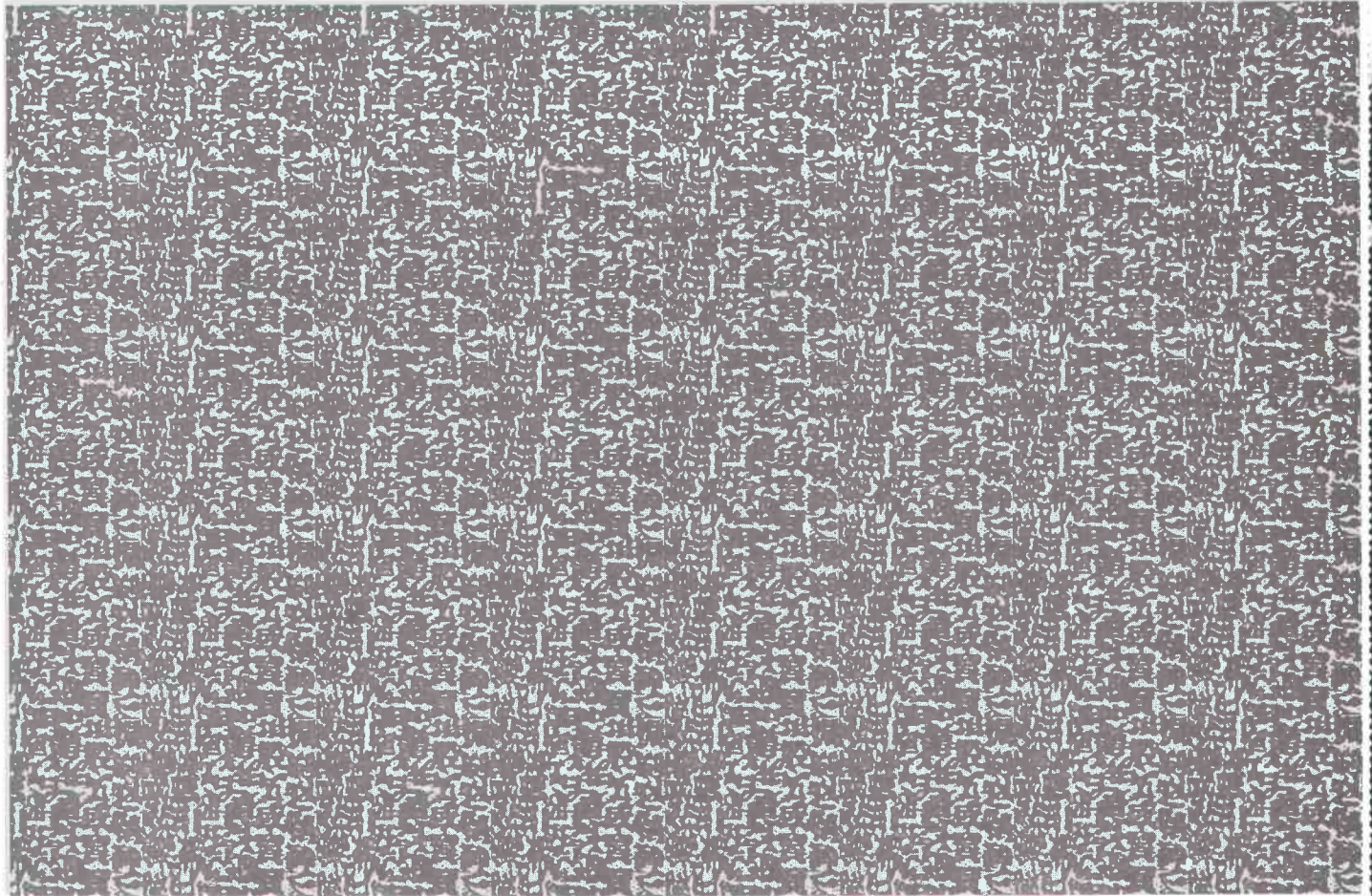
Riverside County Clerk of the Board  
County Administrative Center  
4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor Annex  
P. O. Box 1147  
Riverside, CA 92502-1147



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Dated: March 3, 2016

Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board  
By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant

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CLERK/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2016 MAR 16 AM 11:47

Marine Corps Air Station  
Community Planning & Liason Office  
Bldg. 699 Hart Street  
Yuma, AZ 85365

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
*This may affect your property*

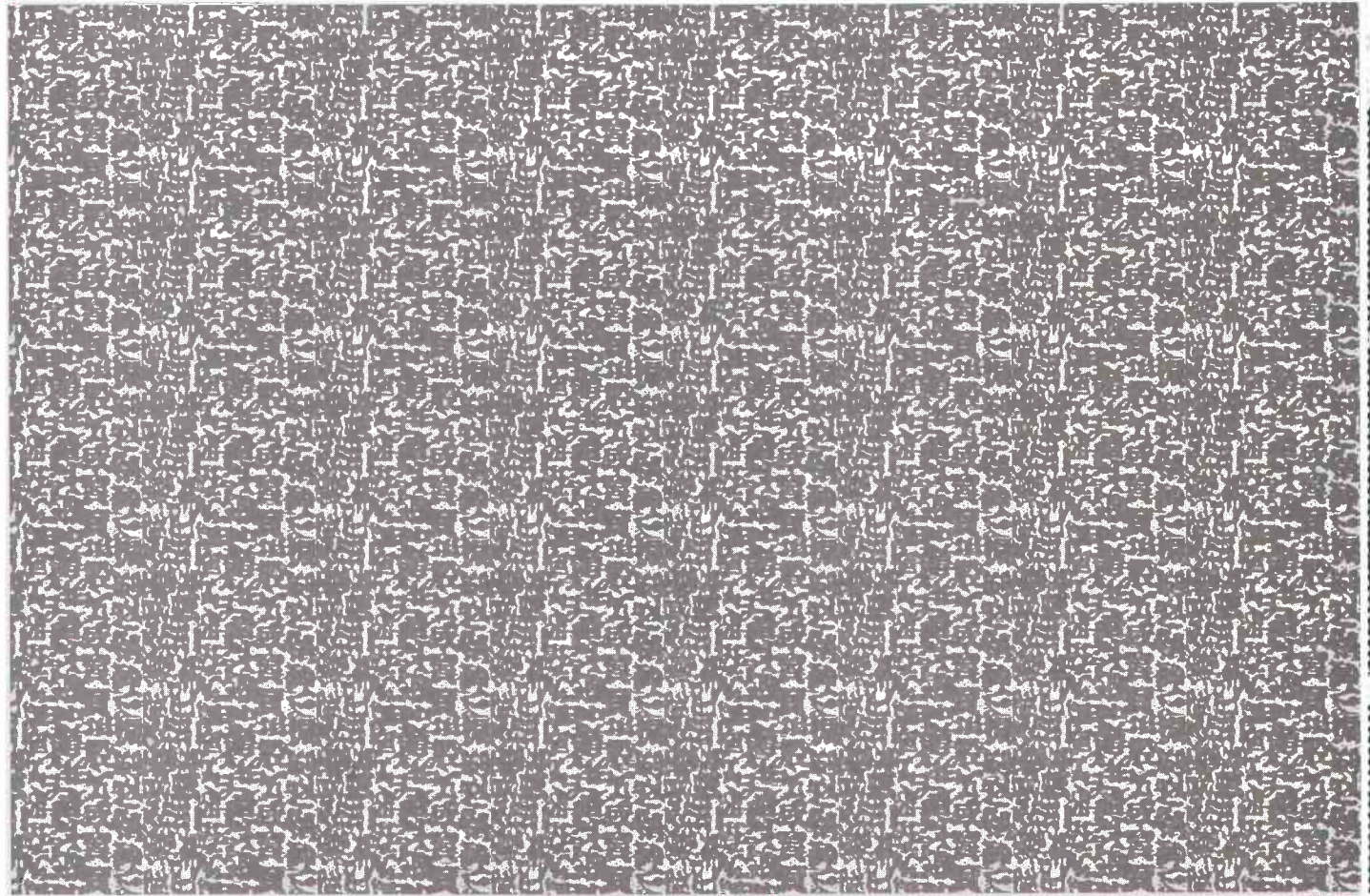
Riverside County Clerk of the Board  
County Administrative Center  
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P. O. Box 1147  
Riverside, CA 92502-1147



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**Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),  
Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject  
to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

**SPEAKER'S NAME:** Danil Terrell

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

**City:** Moreno Valley **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 3-29-16 **Agenda #** 16-4

**PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:**

**Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:**

**Support**       **Oppose**       **Neutral**

**Note:** If you are here for an agenda item that is filed  
for "Appeal", please state separately your position on  
the appeal below:

**Support**       **Oppose**       **Neutral**

**I give my 3 minutes to:** \_\_\_\_\_



## **BOARD RULES**

### **Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:**

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

### **Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES.

### **Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:**

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please insure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

### **Individual Speaker Limits:**

**Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.** Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. **Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.**

### **Group/Organized Presentations:**

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

### **Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:**

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles in order to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),  
Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject  
to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

**SPEAKER'S NAME:** Mike Sodill

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

**City:** Riverside **Zip:** 92503

**Phone #:** 951-990-2959

**Date:** 3-29-16 **Agenda #** 16-4

**PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:**

**Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:**

Support  Oppose  Neutral

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Support  Oppose  Neutral

**I give my 3 minutes to:** \_\_\_\_\_

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You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

### **Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES.

### **Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:**

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please insure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

### **Individual Speaker Limits:**

**Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.** Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. **Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.**

### **Group/Organized Presentations:**

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

### **Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:**

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles in order to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.