

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor



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October 6, 2005

Ms. Margaret Park  
Aqua Caliente Casino Expansion  
600 Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, 92262

Re: Agua Caliente Casino Expansion Draft EIS

Dear Ms. Park:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the above referenced project. We have reviewed the DEIS and have the following comments:

Geologic Setting

The project is located in an area with some seismic risk which was discussed in the DEIS. However, the DEIS refers to mitigation measures listed in Geological Technical Report but not included in the DEIS. For this reason, reviewers of the DEIS cannot adequately assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. These mitigation measures should be described in detail in the DEIS. Until this information is presented, it remains unclear if the mitigation measures adequately address any potential adverse impacts.

The DEIS indicates that the proposed project will be designed to provide "reasonable life safety" (page 3-3). However, the term is not defined and therefore, can be construed very broadly. We recommend this term be defined so that it is clear as to the degree of safety that will be provided.

Fire and Emergency Medical Services

The proposed 16-story casino is the only high rise building in the immediate vicinity. The availability of specialized equipment to fight a high rise fire was not discussed in the EIS. The EIS should address in more detail, how adequate fire protection will be provided by local governments in the area.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Mary Ann Hadden, Associate Environmental Planner, at 916-845-8269.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Castrillo".

Dennis Castrillo  
Environmental Officer

CC: Stephanie Shimazu