

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DISTRICT 8**

PLANNING AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE (MS 722)

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*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

September 30, 2005

Ms. Janielle Desomer
Office of the Governor
Legal Affairs
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Desomer:

Agua Caliente Casino and Retail Expansion TEPA, CEQA and NEPA EIS
State Clearinghouse #2005081138
08 RIV I-10 PM 43.36

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), appreciates the opportunity to review the above noted project. Project as proposed consists of a 65,000 square foot casino expansion, 120 seat restaurant, a 2,000 seat entertainment facility, a new 16 story hotel, a new 100 seat coffee shop, 40 seat bar, an extra 30,000 square feet of functional space, a 5 level parking garage and 1,000 surface parking spaces. A second Phase involving a 350,00 square foot retail center is also planned. This site is located south of Interstate 10 (I-10) at the southeast quadrant of the Ramon Road/I-10 Interchange.

Our Electrical Operations unit was able to review this document in compliance with the stated deadline; their comments are as follows:

- For the traffic signal analysis use the Synchro Progression analysis not the HCM.
- Submit a Synchro progression analysis of coordinated signals at the ramps and adjacent County and City of Rancho Mirage signals.
- The Level of Service target is the transition between the LOS C and D.

Our Traffic Operations Unit is still reviewing this proposal and will likely have comments but cannot meet the required deadline.

Ms. Janielle Desomer
September 30, 2005
Page 2

Caltrans believes project development will impact existing highway facilities and other transportation facilities in the vicinity of the proposed project site, particularly with regard to increased traffic to I-10 mainline (Freeway) and in particular the Ramon Road/I-10 Interchange

The Draft Traffic Study addressed many concerns to mitigate forecasted traffic generation. In general, the Traffic Analysis should be consistent with the Caltrans Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies. Information regarding this guide is available upon request or accessible on the Internet at this link:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/operationalsystems/reports/tisguide.pdf>

Caltrans recommends implementation of policies incorporated in the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Congestion Management Program, by including appropriate traffic impact mitigation measures with the required project conditions of approval. The proposed mitigation measures recommended for this project (particularly the east bound ramps at Ramon Road) are still under review by our Traffic Operations Division and would be reviewed further by our Electrical Operation Unit with the additional requested Synchro Analysis.

Implementation of pertinent mitigation measures should include a "fair share" contribution to a local fund designated for use in upgrading the area's regional transportation infrastructure.

Please contact Sunline Transit for information and opportunities for implementing and placing transit stops and transit centers. Their web site is: <http://www.sunline.org/>

Drainage Impacts:

- Existing capacity of affected State drainage systems cannot be exceeded. Should 100-year project runoff volumes be determined to exceed the maximum capacity of the existing State drainage facilities, construction of on-site detention basins, new drainage systems or other impact mitigation will be required.
- Future review of project drainage design will include an evaluation of runoff impacts to adjacent State Right-of Way (R/W). Where applicable, compliance with pertinent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/water quality standards will be required.

Ms. Janielle Desomer
September 30, 2005
Page 3

Encroachment Permits:

- Any proposed alterations to existing improvements within State right-of-way shall only be performed upon issuance of a valid Encroachment Permit and must conform to current Caltrans design standards and construction practices. An Encroachment Permit will be required for mitigation work.
- Review and approval of street, grading and drainage construction plans and related studies will be necessary prior to Caltrans' permit issuance.

Permit application and submittal requirements may be obtained by contacting:

Office of Permits
Department of Transportation
464 West 4th Street, 6th Floor, MS-619
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400
(909) 383-4526

Or you may visit our web page at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

These comments are based upon a review of the materials provided for our evaluation. If this proposal is revised in any way, please forward appropriate project information to this Office so that updated recommendations for impact mitigation may be provided.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments concerning this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mark Roberts, IGR/CEQA Liaison at (909) 383-2515 for assistance

Sincerely,

Original signed by Daniel Kopulsky

DANIEL KOPULSKY
Office Chief
Special Studies, IGR/CEQA Review

c: Mark Roberts
Allyn Waggle, Coachella Valley Association of Governments
State Clearinghouse