



**STAFF REPORT**  
**3/25/2020**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Gabor Pakozdi, P.E. – City Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Public Information regarding the Weight Limit Restrictions for the Dillon Road Bridge over the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Provide information to the operators of heavy vehicles and to the general travelling public regarding the weight limit restrictions for the Dillon Road Bridge over Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Recent inspections and load rating analyses performed by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) revealed decreased load bearing capacity of the Dillon Road Bridge. It became necessary to inform the travelling public and more particularly the operators of heavy vehicles of the resulting weight restrictions.

**BACKGROUND:**

Caltrans SMI Structure Maintenance and Investigations (SMI) Unit has performed numerous bridge inspections and load rating analysis in 2019. The Dillon Road Bridge Inspection Report identified the structure's integrity sufficiency rating (SR) of 26.4 on a scale of 0 to 100. Bridges with SR rating below 80 are eligible candidates for rehabilitation; and Structurally Deficient (SD) bridges with the SR rating below 50 are eligible candidates for replacement per 23 CFR 490.4.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

Due to the decreased load bearing capacity, it was appropriate and necessary to restrict the use of the bridge by heavy vehicles. As a protective and safety measure, two sets each of (R12-5) regulatory and (W-20 (CA)) warning signs were posted at and in the vicinity of the bridge in January of 2020.

The Dillon Road Joint Powers Authority (JPA) comprised of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, and the City of Coachella, with

assistance from the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), is currently pursuing a construction project for the replacement or, at a minimum, retrofitting of the bridge. Since the project will require environmental clearances and federal funding, the timeline for construction is yet to be determined. Therefore, it will be necessary to maintain the weight restrictions in the meantime.

In addition to the regulatory and warning signs at and in the vicinity of the bridge, information was provided to the public in the local newspaper, on the City's website, at truck stops, and through the Western States Trucking Association.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact at this time. With financial assistance from CVAG, the JPA is pursuing to obtain federal funding for the bridge project.

Attachments