

Dillon Road Joint Powers Authority

*Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
City of Coachella
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians*

STAFF REPORT

1/30/2020

TO: Dillon Road Joint Powers Authority Chair and Board Members

FROM: Gabor Pakozdi, Contract City Engineer, City of Coachella

SUBJECT: Resolution No. DR-2020-02, a Resolution of the Dillon Road Joint Powers Authority embracing the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as the joint lead agencies in the preparation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental documents for the Dillon Road Bridge over Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) Project, Project # 2019-ST-109 and authorize the City of Coachella to update California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. DR-2020-02, a Resolution of the Dillon Road Joint Powers Authority (“JPA”) embracing the Pacific Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”) and California Department of Transportation (“Caltrans”) as the joint lead agencies in the preparation of the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) environmental documents for the Dillon Road Bridge over Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) Project, Project # 2019-ST-109 (“Project”) and authorize the City of Coachella to update California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) documents.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The entire Project is located within the Cabazon and Twenty-Nine Palms’ tribal lands. As it stands, the Project is eligible for funds through the Department of Interior, BIA, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), the Highway Bridge Program (HBP) and other federal agencies and programs.

The Project requires preparation of an environmental document in compliance with NEPA, including associated technical studies. JPA staff determined that having BIA and Caltrans join forces will form an impeccable team for the preparation of the required NEPA environmental document. The BIA shall undertake a variety of actions related to Indian reservation lands, and Caltrans will address transportation issues that require NEPA compliance.

Additionally, this Resolution would authorize the City of Coachella, as the lead agency for the Project, to update the approved previous CEQA documentation with any additional information,

analysis, and documentation needed to keep the document valid and current with any new regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.