

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, City Engineer, City of Coachella

SUBJECT: Resolution No. DR-2020-01, a Resolution of the Dillon Road Joint Powers Authority authorizing the City of Coachella to utilize its Local Code for applying for Highway Bridge Project funds, designating the City of Coachella as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, and delegating authority to the City of Coachella to act as the Highway Bridge Program administrator and applicant for the Dillon Road Bridge over Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) Project, Project # 2019-ST-109.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. DR-2020-01, a Resolution of the Dillon Road Joint Powers Authority (" J P A ") authorizing the City of Coachella ("City") to utilize its Local Code (Locode) for Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds, designating the City as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), and delegating authority to the City to act as the HBP administrator and applicant for the Dillon Road Bridge over Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) Project, Project # 2019-ST-109 ("Project"). Staff also recommends to notify and reassure Caltrans that this Resolution is consistent with JPA Resolution No. 2019-0.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Due to tribal sovereignty, California's state government typically does not interfere in tribal governments. Additionally, tribal governments are not considered local government agencies and thus are not eligible to work directly with Caltrans and apply for HBP funds without an executed master agreement between the State and tribe.

In order for the JPA to be eligible to apply for HBP funds, the JPA must delegate authority to the City to act as the HBP fund administrator and applicant. As part of the application, the City will utilize its Locode. This Resolution also confirms and designates the City as the appropriate CEQA lead agency.

The Resolution is to ensure transparency and to assure Caltrans of the JPA's commitment and accountability. Upon receiving funding expenditure approval, also known as a federal "Authorization to Proceed" (E-76), the City will report back on a regular basis to the Board of

Directors on progress and document all expenditures and costs for the Board of Directors' review and approval at the JPA's board meetings.

The HBP is required to replace the structurally deficient existing Dillon Road Bridge. As an alternative to this Resolution, the JPA could prepare and execute a new master agreement between the State and the JPA tribe members but this is a lengthy process. More importantly, this approach may encounter some challenges and uncertainties that prevent certain results.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.