



STAFF REPORT
10/12/2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Dr. Gabriel Martin, City Manager

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Twenty-Nine Palms Mission Indians in Regards to the Dillon Road Corridor Improvement Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Twenty-Nine Palms Bands of Mission Indians and the City of Coachella in regards to the Dillon Road Corridor Improvement Project

BACKGROUND:

The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians (“Tribe”) is a federally recognized Indian tribe, and is empowered and authorized to contract on its own behalf. The Tribe operate and owns the Spotlight 29 Casino located at 46200 Harrison Place, Coachella, CA 92236.

The Tribe are descendants of the Chemehuevi people, a peaceful and nomadic Tribe whose territory once covered parts of California, Utah, Arizona, and Southern Nevada. The Twenty-Nine Palms Band settled at the sacred site known as the Oasis of Mara, located near the town of Twenty-nine Palms, California. With the European occupation of the West, many Tribal members were relocated to the Coachella Valley and Banning Pass areas. The Twenty-Nine Palms Reservation was established by the Executive Order of 1895 in Twenty-nine Palms, CA. The Reservation was expanded in 1979 with an additional parcel in Coachella, California.

Today, the Tribe has established business enterprises and governmental operations on its sovereign lands, with Spotlight 29 Casino and the Tribal Government Offices near the city of Coachella, and Tortoise Rock Casino near the town of Twenty-nine Palms. The Tribe provides employment to over 700 people, contributes to the community through charitable contributions, and supports the Tribe’s government operations and programs. The Tribal Administration manages all the tribal affairs and general welfare programs for the tribal membership. The Tribe has obtained several federal grants and has demonstrated its capability in managing programs that support its infrastructure.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

This Agreement is being entered into for the purpose of establishing communication and

coordination between the Tribe and Coachella on construction and maintenance work on the portion of Dillon Road within the Reservation lands of the Tribe. It is not intended to limit or otherwise alter, enhance, or limit the respective jurisdiction of either the Tribe or Coachella.

This Agreement does not authorize exchange of currency, regardless of the source, between the two parties. Rather, the Parties will continue discussions, in good faith, and develop further commitments regarding their respective contributions and cost and resource sharing on the Dillon Road Corridor Improvement Project. The Parties commit to engage in regular government-to-government meetings to review the planning, construction, and financial investments for the Dillon Road Corridor Improvement Project at no less than monthly intervals. During such meetings, the Parties commit to providing appropriate decision-making personnel in attendance.

The Parties agree that the Dillon Road Corridor Improvement Project will include the following elements:

- (a) Improved traffic signalization, signage, and other traffic control devices.
- (b) Beautification and landscaping of the center medians and along the road frontage.
- (c) Dillon Road Bridge replacement.
- (d) Lane expansion from four to six lanes of traffic.
- (e) Improvements to Dillon Road intersections with CV-Link, crosswalks, and green path.
- (f) Dedicated turn-in/turn-out locations, lanes and construction of new entrance to Spotlight 29 Casino.
- (g) Improvements to utility infrastructure.
- (h) Beautification and landscaping to Dillon Road interchanges with Interstate 10 and Highway 86.

The Parties agree that further discussions on the Dillon Road Corridor Improvement Project may result in further amendment to the items listed above.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To not approve MOU and provide new direction to Staff

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal Impact

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement with Attachment “A”