
**APPENDIX A AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT MATERIALS**

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385
Phone: (760) 431-9440 Fax: (760) 431-5901
<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>

In Reply Refer To:

July 07, 2017

Consultation Code: 08ECAR00-2017-SLI-1027

Event Code: 08ECAR00-2017-E-02312

Project Name: Phase 5 Expansion and Improvements at the Riverside National Cemetery

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, and proposed species, designated critical habitat, and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the

human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385
(760) 431-9440

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 08ECAR00-2017-SLI-1027

Event Code: 08ECAR00-2017-E-02312

Project Name: Phase 5 Expansion and Improvements at the Riverside National Cemetery

Project Type: DEVELOPMENT

Project Description: This project involves gravesite expansion and cemetery improvements at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California. The 921-acre Riverside National Cemetery has been expanded in phases. This phase would expand the existing cemetery in the identified Phase 5 area of the cemetery—approximately 55 acres for burial—and would entail infrastructure repairs and upgrades to the existing cemetery.

This project would construct and expand operations on 55 acres (Phase 5 Area) within the existing cemetery property to provide for 10 more years of burial expansion for all burial options (casket, columbarium, and in-ground cremation sites), supporting infrastructure, landscaping, drainage, irrigation, parking, signage, amenities, and operational facility improvements. In addition, infrastructure repairs and upgrades to facilities would occur within the original Riverside National Cemetery. Construction and repairs would occur in accordance with the VA's NCA Facilities Design Guide and 38 CFR 39.60, General Requirements for Site Selection and Construction of Veterans Cemeteries.

The Phase 5 development would provide an additional 20,000 cremain gravesites (13,000 columbarium niches and 7,000 in-ground sites) and 23,000 new casket burial sites. Implementation of this project is anticipated to be phased-in over several years. The project would also include memorial walls, a redesign of the main cemetery roadway, renovation to the existing administrative building and committal shelters, construction of a satellite maintenance facility and public restrooms, new roads and parking, grading, drainage, landscaping, irrigation, and signage. Future phases of cemetery development would be analyzed under separate NEPA documents prior to the construction and operation of those phases.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/33.88173241259937N117.27271323269508W>



Counties: Riverside, CA

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 12 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i> (incl. <i>D. cascus</i>)) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3495	Endangered

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher (<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>) There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>) There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>) There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Santa Ana Sucker (<i>Catostomus santaanae</i>) Population: 3 CA river basins There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3785	Threatened

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp (<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>) There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>) There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
<p>Nevin's Barberry (<i>Berberis nevinii</i>)</p> <p>There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8025</p>	Endangered
<p>San Diego Ambrosia (<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>)</p> <p>There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8287</p>	Endangered
<p>Santa Ana River Woolly-star (<i>Eriastrum densifolium ssp. sanctorum</i>)</p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6575</p>	Endangered
<p>Spreading Navarretia (<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>)</p> <p>There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334</p>	Threatened
<p>Thread-leaved Brodiaea (<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>)</p> <p>There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat.</p> <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6087</p>	Threatened

Critical habitats

There are no critical habitats within your project area.



December 7, 2017

Mr. Frank Lienert
California Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
nahc@nahc.ca.gov

513 Prince Edward Street
Suite 201
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Lienert:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is conducting an Environmental Assessment for Riverside National Cemetery expansion and improvements in compliance with the *National Environmental Protection Act* and Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended. Riverside National Cemetery is located at 22495 Van Buren Boulevard in the City of Riverside, Riverside County, California. It is just west of the 215 Freeway adjacent to March Air Force Base. The proposed work location is depicted on the Riverside East, California 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle map (see Figures 1 and 2).

The project is Phase 5 of the cemetery expansion and the upgrading of facilities and infrastructure throughout the original cemetery. Infrastructure repairs and upgrades would include ground disturbance and renovations and improvements to the administrative building, committal shelters, security, maintenance facilities, other present infrastructure, and the construction of two new buildings. On behalf of the VA we are requesting information regarding any known Native American sacred sites located on or near the cemetery.

Please inform us of known Native American religious/sacred sites in the proposed project area as well as contact names and addresses of Native American tribes that may have an interest in this location.

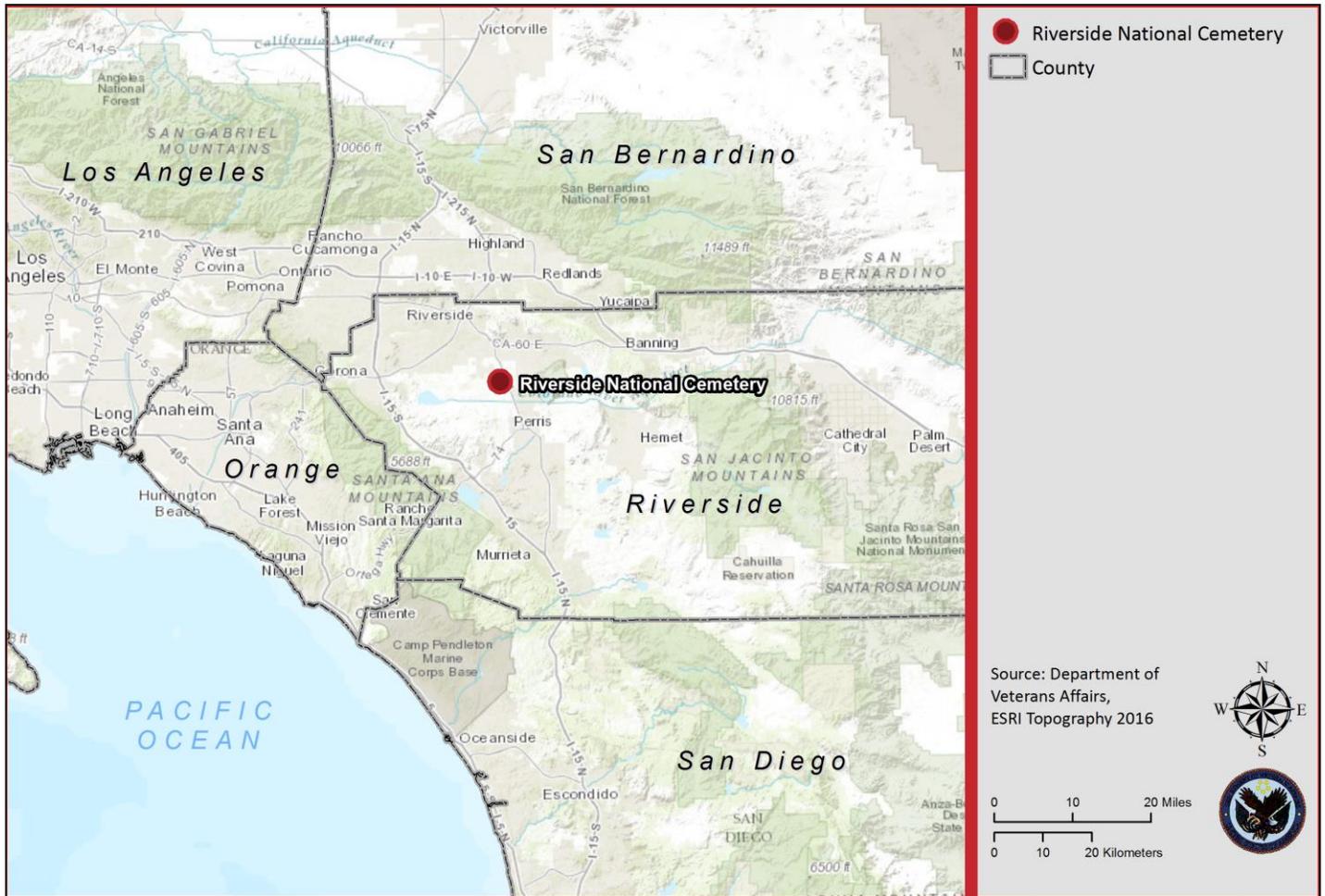
If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at 240-409-6964 or email at kbaynard@marstel-day.com.

Sincerely,

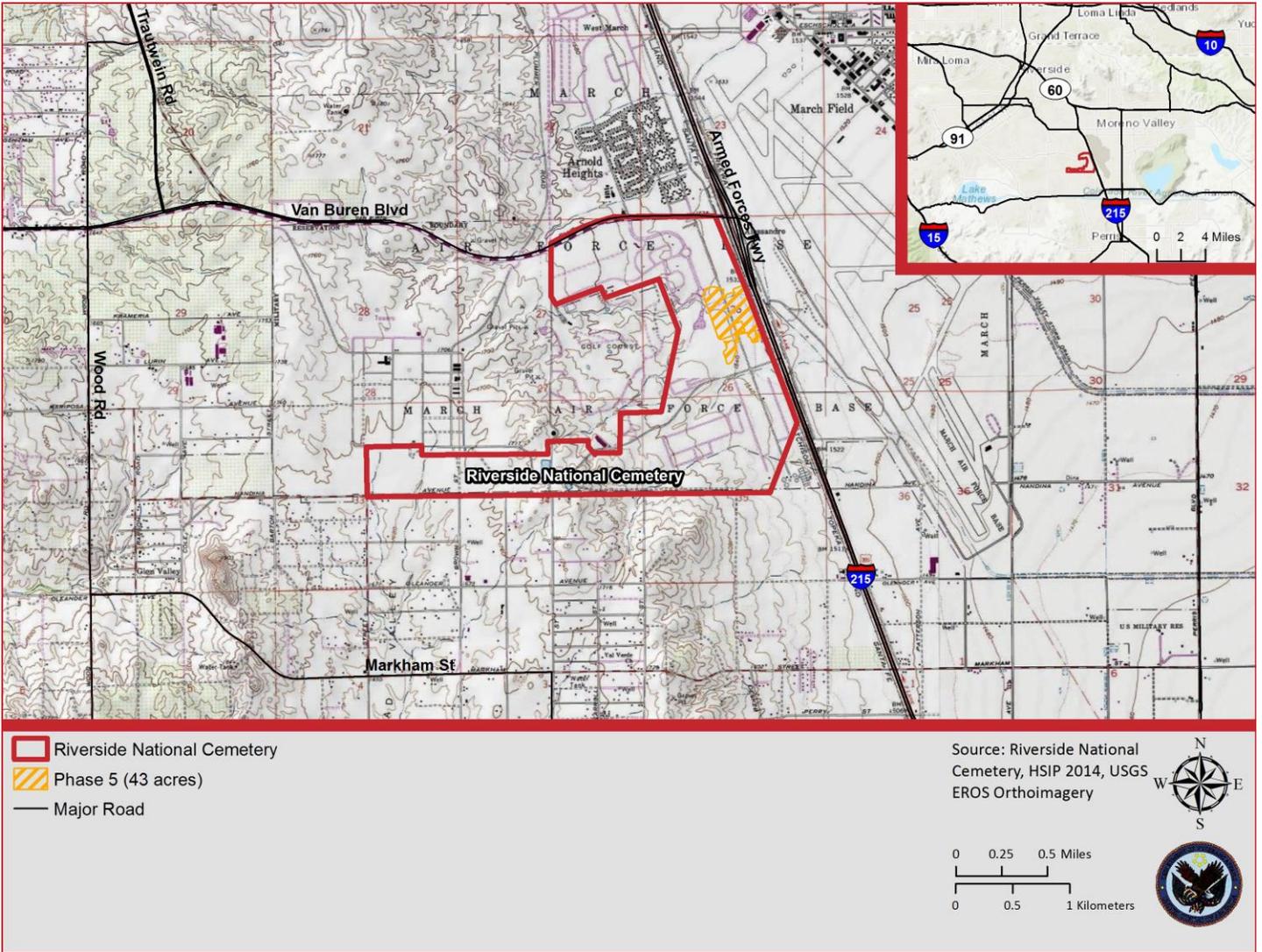
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kristie Baynard'.

Kristie Baynard
Senior Architectural Historian

Cc: Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Attachment 1. Location Map.



Attachment 2. Vicinity Map on the Riverside East, California 7.5-minute USGS Map

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Cultural and Environmental Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Room 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (916) 373-3710
Fax (916) 373-5471
Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov
Website: <http://www.nahc.ca.gov>



December 20, 2017

Kristie Baynard
MARSTEL DAY

Sent by Email to: kbaynard@marstel-day.com

RE: U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Cemetery Expansion, Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside County.

Dear Ms. Baynard:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were positive. Please contact the Ramona Band of Cahuilla on the attached list for more information. Other sources for cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these tribes, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 373-3712.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katy Sanchez".

Katy Sanchez
Associate Environmental Planner

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts
12/19/2017**

Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Jeff Grubbe, Chairperson
5401 Dinah Shore Drive Cahuilla
Palm Springs, CA 92264
(760) 699-6800

(760) 699-6919 Fax

Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Patricia Garcia-Plotkin, Director, THPO
5401 Dinah Shore Drive Cahuilla
Palm Springs, CA 92264
ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net
(760) 699-6907
(760) 667-3761 Call
(760) 699-6924 Fax

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
Amanda Vance, Chairperson
P.O. Box 846 Cahuilla
Coachella, CA 92236
(760) 398-4722
(760) 369-7161 Fax

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
Doug Welmas, Chairperson
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway Cahuilla
Indio, CA 92203
(760) 342-2593

(760) 347-7880 Fax

Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians
Daniel Salgado, Chairperson
52701 U. S. Highway 371 Cahuilla
Anza, CA 92539
Chairman@cahuilla.net
(951) 763-5549
(951) 763-2808

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
Charles F. Wood, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1976 Chemehuevi
Havasupai Lake, CA 92363
chairman@cit-nsn.gov
(760) 858-4219

(760) 858-5400 Fax

Cocopah Indian Reservation
H. Jill McCormick, Tribal Archaeologist
County 15th & Avenue G Coconah
Somerton, AZ 85350
culturalres@cocopah.com
(928) 530-2291

Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado River Indian Reservation
Dennis Patch, Chairman
26600 Moiaive Road Mojave
Parker, AZ 85344 Chemehuevi
crit.museum@vahoo.com
(928) 669-9211 Tribal Office
(928) 669-8070 Ext 21
(928) 669-1925 Fax

Fort Moiaive Indian Tribe
Timothy Williams, Chairperson
500 Merriman Ave Mojave
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 629-4591

(760) 629-5767 Fax

Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
Andrew Salas, Chairperson
P.O. Box 393 Gabrielino
Covina, CA 91723
gabrielenoindians@yahoo.com
(626) 926-4131

This list is current only as of the date of this document and is based on the information available to the Commission on the date it was produced.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessments for the proposed
U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs, Cemetery Expansion, Riverside National Cem. Riverside County

Cemetery KS

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts
12/19/2017**

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Anthony Morales. Chairperson
P.O. Box 693
San Gabriel , CA 91778
GTtribalcouncil@aol.com
(626) 483-3564 Cell

(626) 286-1262 Fax

Gabrielino Tonava

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation
Jovce Perrv. Tribal Manager
4955 Paseo Seaviva
Irvine , CA 92612
kaamalam@aol.com
(949) 293-8522

Juaneno

Gabrielino /Tonava Nation
Sandonne Goad. Chairperson
106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St., #231
Los Angeles , CA 90012
sgoad@gabrielino-tonava.com
(951) 807-0479

Gabrielino Tonava

La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
Thomas Rodriquez. Chairperson
22000 Highway 76
Pauma Valley , CA 92061
(760) 742-3771

(760) 742-3779 Fax

Luiseno

Juaneño Band of Mission Indians
Sonia Johnston. Tribal Chairperson
P.O. Box 25628
Santa Ana , CA 92799
sonia.johnston@sbcglobal.net

Juaneno

Los Covotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians
Shane Chapparosa. Chairman
P.O. Box 189
Warner Springs , CA 92086-01
Chapparosa@msn.com
(760) 782-0711

Cahuilla

(760) 782-0712 Fax

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation
Matias Belardes. Chairperson
32161 Avenida Los Amigos
San Juan Capistrano , CA 92675
kaamalam@aol.com
(949) 444-4340

(949) 444-4340 (Cell)

Juaneno

Moronzo Band of Mission Indians
Robert Martin. Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning , CA 92220
(951) 849-8807
(951) 755-5200
(951) 922-8146 Fax

Cahuilla
Serrano

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation
Teresa Romero. Chairwoman
31411-A La Matanza Street
San Juan Capistrano , CA 92675
tromoer@juaneno.com
(949) 488-3484
(949) 488-3294 Fax

Juaneno

Pala Band of Mission Indians
Shasta Gaughen, PhD, THPO
PMB 50. 35008 Pala Temecula Rd.
Pala , CA 92059
saughen@palatribe.com
(760) 891-3515

(760) 742-3189 Fax

Luiseno
Cupeno

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Cemetery ks

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contacts
12/19/2017**

Pala Band of Mission Indians
Robert H. Smith, Chairperson
12196 Pala Mission Road
Pala, CA 92059
rsmith@palatribe.com
(760) 891-3500

Luiseno
Cupeno

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
Bo Mazzetti, Chairperson
1 West Tribal Road
Valley Center, CA 92082
bomazzetti@aol.com
(760) 749-1051

Luiseno

(760) 742-3189 Fax

(760) 749-5144

Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians
Temet Aguilar, Chairperson
P.O. Box 369
Pauma Valley, CA 92061
(760) 742-1289, Ext. 303

Luiseno

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
John Valenzuela, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA 91322
(760) 885-0955 Cell

Fernandeno
Tataviam
Serrano
Vanyume
Kitanemuk

(760) 742-3422 Fax

Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
Mark Macarro, Chairman
P.O. Box 1477
Temecula, CA 92593
eprestons@pechanga-nsn.gov
(951) 770-6000

Luiseno

San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians
Tribal Council
1889 Sunset Drive
Vista, CA 92081
cimojado@slrmissionindians.org
(760) 724-8505

Luiseno

(951) 695-1778 Fax

(760) 724-2172 Fax

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
Michael Jackson, Sr., President
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366
aitores@quechantribe.com
(760) 572-0213

Quechan

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Lee Clauss, Director-CRM Dept.
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346
lclauss@sanmanuel-nsn.gov
(909) 864-8933

Serrano

(760) 572-2102 Fax

(909) 864-3370 Fax

Ramona Band of Cahuilla
Joseph Hamilton, Chairman
P.O. Box 391670
Anza, CA 92539
admin@ramonatribe.com
(951) 763-4105

Cahuilla

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Lynn Valbuena
26569 Community Center Dr.
Highland, CA 92346
(909) 864-8933

Serrano

(951) 763-4325 Fax

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U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs, Cemetery Expansion, Riverside National Cem. Riverside County

Cemeteries 100

[See distribution list following this letter to see all consultation letter recipients]



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

February 2, 2018

The Honorable Charles F. Wood
Chairman
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

SUBJECT: *National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act* Consultation for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside County, California

Dear Chairman Wood,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is conducting an Environmental Assessment for Riverside National Cemetery expansion and improvements in compliance with the *National Environmental Protection Act* and Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended. Riverside National Cemetery is located at 22495 Van Buren Boulevard in the City of Riverside, Riverside County, California. It is just west of the 215 Freeway adjacent to March Air Force Base. The proposed work location is depicted on the Riverside East, California 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle map (see Attachments 1 and 2).

The project is Phase 5 of the cemetery expansion and the upgrading of facilities and infrastructure throughout the original cemetery. Phase 5 would encompass approximately 43 acres. Infrastructure repairs and upgrades would include renovations and improvements to the administrative building, committal shelters, security, maintenance facilities, other present infrastructure, and the construction of two new buildings.

The Phase 5 expansion site was previously part of March Air Force Base. As a result, there has been previous disturbance of the ground surface and portions of the area have been used as roads and storage areas.

Land improvement activities associated with implementation of the Proposed Action would include land clearing, excavation, soil stockpiling, grading, installing various site improvements, creating roads, creating irrigation ponds, corrections to the water channel and lake system, and extending selected utilities to serve Riverside National Cemetery.

The Proposed Action would include the following elements and features:

Approximately 3,000 crypts, 20,000 gravesites 13,000 traditional 3-foot-by-3-foot in-ground cremains, and 10,000 columbarium niches would be developed on the 43-acre expansion site.

New roadways and parking would be constructed in the Phase 5 expansion site to access cemetery facilities and the maintenance area. The roadways would be developed in a north-south direction across the Phase 5 project area.

Within the original cemetery property, the road at the entrance by the information building would be configured and there would be capability for pull-off.

Eight new cortege lanes, to accommodate 30 vehicles per lane, would be installed near the amphitheater.

A public information building would be constructed on the original Riverside Cemetery property (outside of the Phase 5 expansion site). The building would be tall enough to accommodate full-height commercial vehicles.

The existing administration building on the original cemetery property would be renovated. In addition, a Records Building would be constructed adjacent to the Administration Building. The Records Building would be approximately 500 gross square feet.

Public restrooms would be constructed in the western portion of the expansion site.

A Satellite Maintenance Facility would house equipment and material needed to complete the construction work in Phases 5 - 7.

All signage would be replaced.

Landscaping and fencing: Turf would be planted in the expansion site from seed, and renovation and repair of existing turf would be planted from sod. Geographically compatible plants, shrubs, and trees would be planted in keeping with the existing cemetery landscaping. The spoils from the Phase 5 burial sections would be removed and potentially used for new berms.

The irrigation system would be developed for the full build-out of the expansion site. The VA would construct a lake to serve irrigation needs.

Utilities: Electrical power, sanitary sewer, potable water, storm sewer, and natural gas utilities would be acquired for the full build-out needs of the expansion site.

Six committal shelters on the original cemetery site would be renovated, and one committal shelter (Shelter D) would be demolished.

We would appreciate any background information regarding the prehistory, history, and ethnography, sacred lands and known historic properties that you can provide about this project area. In addition, we are interested in any other Native American and/or local community concerns regarding cultural resources already known or likely to be present within the project area.

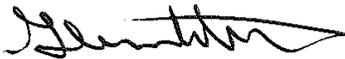
Your response to this letter in identifying any historic properties, including Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) that may exist within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), and providing any key tribal contacts, is greatly appreciated. We are also inviting comments regarding any other tribal

concerns the proposed project may raise. Your timely response will assist us in incorporating your concerns into project planning. For that purpose, we respectfully request that you complete the enclosed Project Consultation Options form and forward it to the VA within thirty (15) days of your receipt of this correspondence.

We value your assistance and look forward to consulting further if there are historic properties of religious and cultural significance to your tribe that may be affected by this project.

If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at (202) 632-5879 or email at Glenn.Elliott@va.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Elliott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glenn Elliott

Environmental Engineer, P P/M

Enclosures:

- Location Map
- Vicinity Map of Project Location
- Tribal Consultation Options form

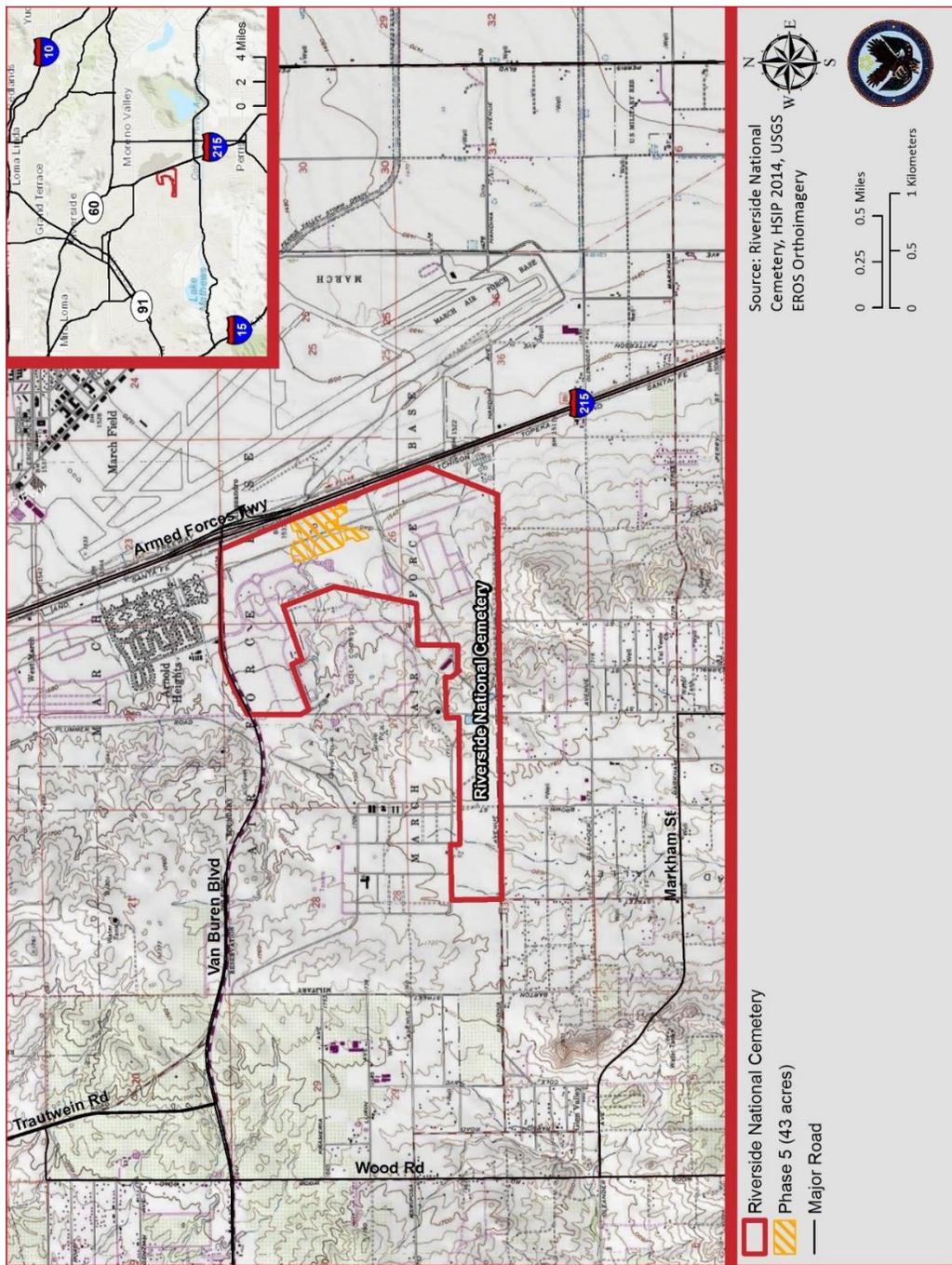


Figure 2. Riverside National Cemetery Original Site and Expansion Site
 (Riverside East and Steele Peak USGS topographic maps)

Tribal Government to Government Consultation Response Form

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

Project Name: Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside County, California

Please check a response, provide contact information, sign and mail, email or fax this form to VA.

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, a federally recognized tribe, would like to consult with the VA in a government-to-government relationship for this proposed project.

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe has no interest associated with this proposed project and further consultation is not required.

Tribal Leader (Please print)

Telephone

Tribal Leader (Signature)

Date

If you have decided to consult, please identify a Tribal Representative for the consultation.

Name of Formal Tribal Representative (Please print)

Telephone

Name of Formal Tribal Representative (Signature)

Date

Tribal Contact information:

Phone:

Fax:

e-mail:

Other: (please describe)

Please mail, email, or fax Response Form

Mr. Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction and Facilities Management
425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a
Washington, D.C. 20001

FAX: (202) 632-5832

EMAIL: Glenn.Elliott@va.gov

Native American Tribes Distribution List

The Honorable Joseph Hamilton
Chairman
Ramona Band of Cahuilla
P.O. Box 391670
Anza, CA 92539

The Honorable Charles F. Wood
Chairman
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

Ms. H. Jill McCormick
Tribal Archaeologist
Cocopah Indian Reservation
County 15th & Avenue G
Sommerton, AZ 85350

The Honorable Dennis Patch
Chairman
Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado
River Indian Reservation
26600 Mojave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

The Honorable Timothy Williams
Chairman
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

The Honorable Andrew Salas
Chairman
Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh
Nation
P.O. Box 393
Covina, CA 91723

The Honorable Anthony Morales
Chairman
Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission
Indians
P.O. Box 693
San Gabriel, CA 91778

The Honorable Sandonne Goad
Chairwoman
Gabrielino/Tongva Nation
106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St. #231
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Sonia Johnston
Chairwoman
Joaneno Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 25628
Santa Ana, CA 92799

The Honorable Thomas Rodriguez
Chairman
La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
22000 Hwy 76
Pauma Valley, CA 92061

The Honorable Temet Aguilar
Chairman
Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians
P.O. Box 369
Pauma Valley, CA 92061

The Honorable Mark Macarro
Chairman
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians
P.O. Box 1477
Temecula, CA 92593

Mr. Michael Jackson, Sr.
President
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian
Reservation
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366

The Honorable Bo Mazzetti
Chairman
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
1 West Tribal Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

The Honorable John Valenzuela
Chairman
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA 91322

Tribal Council
San Luis Rev Band of Mission Indians
1889 Sunset Drive
Vista, CA 92081

The Honorable Goldie Walker
Chairwoman
Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 343
Patton, CA 92369

The Honorable Amanda Vance
Chairwoman
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 846
Coachella, CA 92236

The Honorable Doug Welmas
Chairman
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy
Indio, CA 92203

The Honorable Daniel Salgado
Chairman
Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians
52701 U.S. Hwy 371
Anza, CA 92539

The Honorable Shane Chapparosa
Chairman
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla Cupeno Indians
P.O. Box 189
Warner Springs, CA 92086

The Honorable Robert Martin
Chairman
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA 92220

The Honorable Steven Estrada
Chairman
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 391820
Anza, CA 92539

Mr. Joseph Ontiveros
Cultural Resource Dept.
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
P.O. Box 487
San Jacinto, CA 92581

Mr. Michael Mirelez
Cultural Resource Coordinator
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

The Honorable Matias Belardes
Chairman
Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen
Nation
32161 Avenida Los Amigos
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

The Honorable Teresa Romero
Chairwoman
Juaneno Band of Mission Indians of Acjachemen
Nation
31411-A La Matanza Street
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Ms. Joyce Perry
Tribal Manager
Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen
Nation
4955 Paseo Segovia
Irvine, CA 92612

Ms. Shasta Gaughen
Tribal HPO
Pala Band of Mission Indians
PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road
Pala, CA 92059

The Honorable Robert H. Smith
Chairman
Pala Band of Mission Indians
12196 Pala Mission Road
Pala, CA 92059

Mr. Lee Clauss
Director-DRM Dept.
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

The Honorable Lynn Valbuena
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Dr.
Highland, CA 92346

The Honorable Darrell Mike
Chairman
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA 92236

Mr. Anthony Madrigal, Jr.
Tribal HPO
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA 92236

Ms. Patricia Garcia-Plotkin
Director, THPO
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Dr.
Palms Springs, CA 92264

The Honorable Jeff Grubbe
Chairman
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Elizabeth Pratt

From: Tanya Perry
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 12:21 PM
To: Kristie Baynard; Paula Bienenfeld; Elizabeth Pratt
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] VA Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery
Attachments: image98332e.PNG

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Response below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Elliott, Glenn (CFM) [mailto:Glenn.Elliott@va.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 12:19 PM
To: Tanya Perry <tperry@marstel-day.com>; Pulak, Douglas D. (CFM) <Douglas.Pulak@va.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] VA Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery

FYI

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
425 (I) eye Street, NW, Room 6W417a
Washington, D.C. 20001

ph. (202) 632-5879
fx. (202) 632-5832
Cell (202) 360-1243

From: Jessica Mauck
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 6:27:27 PM
To: Elliott, Glenn (CFM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] VA Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery

Hello Glenn,

Thank you for contacting the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) regarding the above referenced project. SMBMI appreciates the opportunity to review the project documentation, which was received by our Cultural Resources Management Department on 06 February 2018. The proposed project area is located outside of Serrano ancestral territory and, as such, SMBMI will not be requesting consulting party status with the lead agency or requesting to

participate in the scoping, development, and/or review of documents created pursuant to these legal and regulatory mandates.

Regards,

Jessica Mauck

CULTURAL RESOURCES ANALYST

O: (909) 864-8933 x3249

M: (909) 725-9054

26569 Community Center Drive, Highland California 92346

[cid:image98332e.PNG@b62c2b10.40b4a0ae]<<http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov>>

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this electronic transmission in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify the sender by reply e-mail so that the email address record can be corrected. Thank You

SAN LUIS REY BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

1889 Sunset Drive • Vista, California 92081

760-724-8505 • FAX 760-724-2172

www.slrmissionindians.org

February 14, 2018

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Office of Construction and Facilities Management
425 I Street, NW, Room 6W417a
Washington, D.C. 20001

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Glenn.Elliott@va.gov

RE: Decline to Participate in Tribal Consultation Regarding the Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Elliott:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your notification and request for tribal consultation (dated January 31, 2018) for the Environmental Assessment for Riverside National Cemetery Expansion and Improvement Project in Riverside County, California. The proposed project, however, lies outside of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indian's traditional and culturally affiliated territory. Therefore, the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians respectfully declines to consult with your agency regarding the above referenced project and defers consultation in the matter to the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians and the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians.

We thank you for your commitment in protecting California's invaluable Native American tribal cultural resources.

Sincerely,



Merri Lopez-Keifer
SLR Chief Legal Counsel

**PALA TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE**

PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road
Pala, CA 92059
760-891-3510 Office | 760-742-3189 Fax



February 14, 2018

Glenn Elliott
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington DC 20420

Re: Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery

Dear Mrs. Elliott:

The Pala Band of Mission Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office has received your notification of the project referenced above. This letter constitutes our response on behalf of Robert Smith, Tribal Chairman.

We have consulted our maps and determined that the project as described is not within the boundaries of the recognized Pala Indian Reservation. The project is also beyond the boundaries of the territory that the tribe considers its Traditional Use Area (TUA). Therefore, we have no objection to the continuation of project activities as currently planned and we defer to the wishes of Tribes in closer proximity to the project area.

We appreciate involvement with your initiative and look forward to working with you on future efforts. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 760-891-3515 or by e-mail at sgaughen@palatribe.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shasta C. Gaughen", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Shasta C. Gaughen, PhD
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Pala Band of Mission Indians

ATTENTION: THE PALA TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL REQUESTS FOR CONSULTATION. PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO SHASTA C. GAUGHEN AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO ALSO SEND NOTICES TO PALA TRIBAL CHAIRMAN ROBERT SMITH.



TWENTY-NINE PALMS BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

46-200 Harrison Place . Coachella, California . 92236 . Ph. 760.863.2444 . Fax: 760.863.2449

February 20, 2018

Glenn Elliott, Environmental Engineer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction and Facilities Management
425 I Street, NW, Room 6W417a
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: *National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act Consultation for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside County, California*

Dear Mr. Elliott,

This letter is in regards to consultation in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR 800) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at the Riverside National Cemetery. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) is not aware of any additional archaeological/cultural sites or properties in the undertaking that pertain to the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians (Tribe). The THPO does not have any specific concerns in regards to this undertaking. However, if there are inadvertent discoveries of archaeological remains or resources, construction should stop immediately, and the appropriate agency and tribe(s), and the THPO should be notified.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at (760) 775-3259 or by email: TNPConsultation@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov.

Sincerely,


Anthony Madrigal, Jr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Darrell Mike, Twenty-Nine Palms Tribal Chairman
Sarah Bliss, Twenty-Nine Palms Tribal Cultural Specialist

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION



01-040-2014-001

April 18, 2014

[VIA EMAIL TO:Glenn.Elliott@va.gov]
Department of Veteran Affairs
Mr. Glenn Elliott
Room 6W417a
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Riverside VA Cemetery

Dear Mr. Glenn Elliott,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Riverside VA Cemetery Expansion project. The project area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI Reservation. However, it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. For this reason, the ACBCI THPO requests the following:

*At this time ACBCI defers to Soboba. This letter shall conclude our consultation efforts.

Again, the Agua Caliente appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information, please call me at (760)699-6829. You may also email me at ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net.

Cordially,

Katie Croft
Cultural Resources Manager
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

MORONGO
BAND OF
MISSION
INDIANS



A SOVEREIGN NATION

**MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
12700 PUMARRA RD BANNING, CA 92220
OFFICE 951-755-5025 FAX 951-572-6004**

Date: 3/2/2018

Re:
Riverside National Cemetery Expansion

Dear,
Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer
Department of Veterans Affairs

Thank you for contacting the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) Cultural Heritage Department regarding the above referenced project(s). After conducting a preliminary review of the project, the tribe would like to respectfully issue the following comments and/or requests:

- The project is located outside of the Tribe's aboriginal territory and is not within an area considered to be a traditional use area or one in which the Tribe has cultural ties. We recommend contacting the appropriate tribe(s) who may have cultural affiliations to the project area. We have no further comments at this time.
- The project is located within the Tribe's aboriginal territory or in an area considered to be a traditional use area or one in which the Tribe has cultural ties. In order to further evaluate the project for potential impacts to tribal cultural resources, we would like to formally request the following:
 - A thorough records search be conducted by contacting one of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) Archaeological Information Centers and a copy of the search results be provided to the tribe.
 - Tribal monitor participation during the initial pedestrian field survey of the Phase I Study of the project and a copy of the results of that study. In the event the pedestrian survey has already been conducted, MBMI requests a copy of the Phase I study be provided to the tribe as soon as it can be made available.
 - MBMI Tribal Cultural Resource Monitor(s) be present during all required ground disturbing activities pertaining to the project.
- The project is located with the current boundaries of the Morongo Indian Reservation. Please contact the Morongo Cultural Heritage Department for further details.

Please be aware that this letter is merely intended to notify your office that the tribe has received your letter requesting tribal consultation for the above mentioned project and is requesting to engage in consultation. Specific details regarding the tribe's involvement in the project must be discussed on a project by project basis during the tribal consultation process. This letter does not constitute "meaningful" tribal consultation nor does it conclude the consultation process. Under federal and state law, "meaningful" consultation is understood to be an ongoing government-to-government process and may involve requests for additional information, phone conferences and/or face-to-face meetings. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact the Morongo Cultural Heritage office at (951) 755-5139.

Sincerely,

Raymond Huate
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Email: rhuate@morongo-nsn.gov
Phone: (951) 755-5025

Tribal Government to Government Consultation Response Form

Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
1 West Tribal Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

Project Name: Cemetery Expansion and Improvements at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside
County, California

Please check a response, provide contact information, sign and mail, email or fax this form to VA.

The Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, a federally recognized tribe, would like to consult with the VA in a government-to-government relationship for this proposed project.

The Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians has no interest associated with this proposed project and further consultation is not required.

Bo Mazzetti

Tribal Leader (Please print)

760-749-1092

Telephone

[Signature]

Tribal Leader (Signature)

3-6-18

Date

If you have decided to consult, please identify a Tribal Representative for the consultation.

Destiny Colacho,

Name of Formal Tribal Representative (Please print)

760.297.2635

Telephone

C. G. Al

Name of Formal Tribal Representative (Signature)

Date

Tribal Contact information:

Phone: 760.297.2635

Fax:

e-mail: dcolacho@rincotribe.org

Other: (please describe)

Please mail, email, or fax Response Form

Mr. Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction and Facilities Management
425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a
Washington, D.C. 20001

FAX: (202) 632-5832

EMAIL: Glenn.Elliott@va.gov

Elizabeth Pratt

From: Elizabeth Pratt
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 3:09 PM
To: Elizabeth Pratt
Subject: FW: Tribal for Riverside

From: Elliott, Glenn (CFM) [<mailto:Glenn.Elliott@va.gov>]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 1:57 PM
To: Tanya Perry <tperry@marstel-day.com>
Subject: Tribal for Riverside

Tanya,
Could you put a not in our files that Goldie from the Serano Nation Called and left a message that they had no additional information regarding our project at Riverside.
Thanks

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a
Washington, D.C. 20001

ph. (202) 632-5879
fx. (202) 632-5832
bb. (202) 360-1243



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

February 27, 2018

Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
California Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: Environmental Assessment – *National Environmental Policy Act* and *National Historic Preservation Act* Section 106 Consultation Initiation, Proposed Department of Veterans Affairs, Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Riverside, Riverside County, City of Riverside, California

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the above-referenced Riverside National Cemetery expansion, in accordance with VA regulations for compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) and the *National Historic Preservation Act* of 1966 as amended (NHPA), 36 CFR 800.8(c). The cemetery is located at 22495 Van Buren Boulevard, in Riverside County, City of Riverside, California (Figure 1). The project area is shown in more detail in Figures 2 and 3.

The purpose of this letter is to consult with the California State Historic Preservation Officer per Section 106 of the NHPA and NEPA on the undertaking of the Riverside National Cemetery expansion and improvements. The VA has begun its review of the undertaking under the NEPA process. Marstel-Day, LLC has been contracted to complete the Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for this Phase 5 of the cemetery expansion. The project would take approximately 18 months to construct. The Preliminary Internal SEA and Internal Draft SEA have been submitted to date.

Section I: General Description of the Undertaking

The VA is proposing demolition and new construction within the existing cemetery, and construction with the cemetery expansion area as part of Phase 5. Within the existing cemetery the VA plans to demolish one committal shelter, renovate six shelters, renovate the administration building, and replace original signage and furnishings. The work also involves ground disturbance for utilities, access roads, irrigation ponds, and laydown areas. Within the expansion area the VA plans to develop new gravesites, construct new buildings, roadways, and parking areas, and extend utilities.

Section II: Contact Information

The VA is the lead agency in this undertaking and its representative is:

Mr. Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction and Facilities Management
425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a
Washington, D.C. 20001
glenn.elliott@va.gov

ph. (202) 632-5879

fx. (202) 632-5832

c: (202) 360-1243

Section III: Project Description and Area of Potential Effect (APE)

Cemetery Expansion

Established in 1978, Riverside National Cemetery began burial operations on approximately 740 acres transferred by the March Air Force Base (AFB).

In 1918, March AFB was established approximately a mile east of the project site. Previously the largest airfield in the western United States, March AFB was reorganized as March Air Reserve Base (ARB) in 1993. Most of the current extent of Riverside National Cemetery's property was once Camp Haan, a military reservation directly west of, and adjacent to, March AFB. Originally a tent camp developed in 1940, Camp Haan served alternately as an artillery training center, army service depot, World War II prisoner-of-war camp, and a separation point for soldiers returning from World War II. The camp had a peak population of 80,000 and was the site of over 350 wooden structures. After being declared surplus in 1947, a portion of the land went to March AFB and the rest was privately sold. All existing buildings were either moved or destroyed, and roads were largely dismantled or left to deteriorate. In 1976, 740 acres of March AFB that were once part of Camp Haan were transferred to the VA to establish Riverside National Cemetery.

In 2003, an additional 182 acres were acquired with a total of 922 acres making up the entire Riverside National Cemetery. Under the Proposed Action, the VA would construct and operate the fifth phase (Phase 5) of the Riverside National Cemetery expansion, as well as upgrade facilities and infrastructure throughout the original cemetery. Phase 5 would encompass approximately 43 acres immediately east of the existing cemetery and provide all burial options (Figures 2 and 3). This action would take place over the course of approximately 10 years.

The Proposed Action would include the development of gravesites in the form of pre-placed, full-casket crypts, traditional, in-ground cremains, columbarium niches, and pre-placed crypts. Memorial walls, roadways, parking, fencing, entry gate, utility systems, site furnishings, signage, landscaping, irrigation, and a separate maintenance facility would be constructed. The Proposed Action would also include upgrading facilities and infrastructure throughout the original cemetery. Infrastructure repairs and upgrades would include renovations and improvements to the administrative building, committal shelters, security, maintenance facilities, other present infrastructure, and the construction of two new buildings.

Land improvement activities would include land clearing, excavation, soil stockpiling, grading, installing various site improvements, creating roads, creating irrigation ponds, improving the water channel and lake system, and extending selected utilities to serve Riverside National Cemetery.

The specifics of the Proposed Action include the following:

- Approximately 3,000 crypts, 20,000 gravesites 13,000 traditional 3-foot-by-3-foot in-ground cremains, and 10,000 columbarium niches would be developed on the 43-acre expansion site.
- New roadways and parking would be constructed in the Phase 5 expansion site to access cemetery facilities and the maintenance area. The roadways would be developed in a north-south direction across the Phase 5 project area.
- Within the original cemetery property, the road at the entrance by the information building would be configured and there would be capability for pull-off.
- Eight new cortege lanes, to accommodate 30 vehicles per lane, would be installed near the amphitheater.
- A public information building would be constructed on the original Riverside Cemetery property (outside of the Phase 5 expansion site). The building would be tall enough to accommodate full-height commercial vehicles.
- The existing administration building on the original cemetery property would be renovated. In addition, a Records Building would be constructed adjacent to the Administration Building. The Records Building would be approximately 500 gross square feet.
- Public restrooms would be constructed in the western portion of the expansion site.
- A Satellite Maintenance Facility would house equipment and material needed to complete the construction work in Phases 5 - 7.
- All signage would be replaced.

- Landscaping and fencing: Turf would be planted in the expansion site from seed, and renovation and repair of existing turf would be planted from sod. Geographically compatible plants, shrubs, and trees would be planted in keeping with the existing cemetery landscaping. The spoils from the Phase 5 burial sections would be removed and potentially used for new berms.
- The irrigation system would be developed for the full build-out of the expansion site. The VA would construct a lake to serve irrigation needs.
- Utilities: Electrical power, sanitary sewer, potable water, storm sewer, and natural gas utilities would be acquired for the full build-out needs of the expansion site.
- Six committal shelters on the original cemetery site would be renovated, and one committal shelter (Shelter D) would be demolished.
- Approximately 200,000 cubic yards of cut and fill would occur on the property to implement the Proposed Action.

Updates within the Existing Cemetery

Infrastructure repairs and upgrades would occur within the existing cemetery, including renovations and improvements to the administrative building, six committal shelters, security, maintenance facilities, and other present infrastructure. The Proposed Action is to demolish one committal shelter (Shelter D), construct two new buildings, and replace the furnishings and signage to be consistent with the expansion area. The new buildings would include a public information building near the entrance and a Records Building adjacent to the Administration Building. The Proposed Action also includes a new entrance configured to allow for pull-off, eight new cortege lanes added near the amphitheater, and the renovation of several structures, which include the Administration Building and six committal shelters (Shelters A, B, C, E, F, G) (Figure 3).

Expansion Area

New development of the expansion area would include gravesites, roads, utility extensions, an irrigation system, signage, landscaping, and construction of new buildings.

Area of Potential Effect

Per NHPA Sections 800.4(a)(1) and 800.16(d), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking was determined for both the above-ground and archaeological (below-ground) historic properties.

Archaeological Resources

The APE for archaeological resources consists of the entire area where ground disturbance might directly affect archaeological resources, should any be located within the project area. No indirect impacts are anticipated.

Above-ground Resources

The APE for above-ground resources consists of the project area and the area on land from which the project area would be visible. The APE and visual APE determined for this project is the entire boundary of the Riverside National Cemetery, both existing and expansion areas. The visual APE was determined to encompass the viewshed of the project area in which the indirect, visual effects of the project might affect above-ground properties, if any were located there. There are no NRHP-eligible historic properties adjacent to the cemetery; however, the cemetery itself is a NRHP-eligible property, including the expansion area.

Section IIIA: Ground Disturbing Activity

At this time of project development, the specific extent and depth of ground disturbance is unknown. Ground-disturbing activities include construction of new roads and irrigation ponds, changes to the existing water channel and lake system, extension of some utilities, and construction of crypts, gravesites cremains, and columbarium niches.

The Phase 5 expansion site is currently undeveloped grassland and grassland-scrub mixed stands. There has been previous disturbance of the ground surface, and portions of the area have been previously used as roads and storage areas.

Section IV: Historic Resources in the Area of Potential Effect

The National Park Service has determined that all National Cemeteries are exceptionally significant places, with a period of significance from 1950 to present (National Park Service, 2011). Thus, despite being less than 50 years old, the existing Riverside National Cemetery is considered a historic property for purposes of Section 106 of the NHPA. Areas used for cemeteries, which include buildings, landscape features, roads, monuments, and markers, among other resources, are considered contributing, whereas unimproved acreage is noncontributing to the eligible cemetery. The 43-acre unimproved area to be developed for cemetery expansion is noncontributing. Once the expansion site is planned and developed, it would be included as a contributing resource.

A cultural resources record search conducted in March 2016 through the California Historical Resources Information System, Eastern Information System, indicates that there are 27 cultural records within or adjacent to the Riverside National Cemetery property boundary. Seven prehistoric sites or resources have been previously identified on the Riverside National Cemetery and have been deemed ineligible for listing on the NRHP, none of which are located within the cemetery expansion project area. No areas were identified that might have high probability for archaeological potential. A response from the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) stated that there was one positive file in the Sacred Land Files.

In addition to a review of surveys and archaeological sites located outside of the project area, an initial cultural resource impact prediction study¹ was completed for the acquisition area to the west of this project area, the General Archie Old Golf Course at 16700 Village West Drive, March ARB; an archaeological sensitivity assessment was conducted, including a windshield survey²; an archaeological survey report was completed for the Golf Course expansion³, which is outside of and to the west of the current APE; and a focused ethnographic landscape study was also completed⁴. These last three reports include discussion of the current APE, that is the subject of this letter.

The 2017 Sensitivity Study included a records search and a windshield survey. The August 2017 report described results of a May 2017 pedestrian survey of 705 acres within the Golf Course Expansion Area, as well as an Eastern Information Center (EIC) records search. The EIC records search included the current APE, and two new prehistoric resources, both bedrock milling stations, were identified during the pedestrian survey. One new historic period site was identified, a secondary deposit of historic cans, dating no earlier than the 1950s. The new sites were identified as not eligible for listing on the NRHP.

Other than the NRHP-eligible cemetery itself, there are no other known cultural resources within, or adjacent to, the cemetery expansion project area. There are no historic properties that would be affected outside the existing and expanded cemetery, directly or indirectly with construction within the expansion project area.

Building Demolition and New Construction within Existing Cemetery

The VA plans to renovate the Administration Building and six committal shelters within the existing historic district. These buildings are contributing resources to the eligible historic district. The Administration Building was built in 1978, as one of the original cemetery buildings. Built in a modern prairie style, this building is one story and features a strong linear focus with wide eaves, flat roof, and encompasses 5,000 square feet. The VA also proposes to demolish one committal shelter, which dates to the original period of construction and are similar in materials and style to the administration building. The Proposed Action would also replace the signage within the existing cemetery to match the new signage at the expansion site.

Native American Consultation

The VA consulted with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on December 7, 2017 and a response was received on December 20, 2017 (see Attachments 1 and 2). The NAHC

¹ Initial Cultural Resource Impact Prediction for the Proposed Expansion of the Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, Riverside County, California, Row 10 historic Preservation Solutions, LLC to Mr. Richard Banchoff, ISI Professional Services, November 17, 2016

² Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment for the Proposed Expansion of the Riverside National Cemetery City of Riverside, Riverside County, California, Environmental Research Group, LLC, June 2017

³ Archaeological Survey Report for the Proposed Expansion of the Riverside National Cemetery Project, Located in Riverside County, California, Environmental Intelligence, LLC, August 2017

⁴ Focused Ethnographic Landscape Study of the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA, Relating to the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, PaleoSolutions, LLC, December 2017

suggested that consultation be conducted between the VA and the tribes listed in their consultation letter. Letters are being prepared and will be sent to those tribes, with follow-up phone calls or emails to those tribes from which the VA did not receive responses. The NAHC also stated they had identified a positive result from the Sacred Lands File (SLF), indicating that the Ramona Band of Cahuilla would have information on sites or potential sites in the area.

The VA has also been consulting with tribes and Native American stakeholders regarding acquisition of the Golf Course location to the west of the current APE, with letters, telephone conversations, and in-person meetings. As part of that consultation and at the request of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, the VA completed the ethnographic landscape study mentioned above. The study discussed the ethnographic importance and context of the Riverside National Cemetery, including the current APE.

Section V: Determination of Effect

Based on the new construction and ground disturbance the VA recommends that there would be no adverse effects pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(2).

Cemetery Expansion Area

Some potential exists for disturbance of previously unknown archaeological resources during the construction and excavation actions of the Proposed Action alternative of the cemetery expansion. Therefore, there is potential for long-term, minor adverse effects on cultural resources within the expansion area. Adherence to federal and state regulations would reduce potential impacts on previously unknown sites during construction, so that there would be no adverse impacts.

Construction in the expansion area would have no adverse effects to the existing Riverside National Cemetery historic district. The expansion area would be compatible with a similar design and use and therefore would not compromise the original cemetery's integrity.

Building Demolitions

The Proposed Action is to demolish one committal shelter (Shelter D). The VA does not consider the removal of this resource to rise to the level of an adverse effect. It is not among the most significant resources on the property. The removal of it from the cemetery would not affect the integrity or significance of the historic district.

Renovations and New Construction

The Proposed Action is to renovate the existing Administration Building and six committal shelters, and construct a new Records Building. The existing Administration Building on the original cemetery property would be renovated to include the replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system, repairing the interior ceiling and adding insulation, and replacing the interior and exterior light fixtures. Renovations of the committal shelters would include replacing the roof structures, and, depending on the shelter, replacing the drainage system and flooring. The renovations to the Administration Building and the committal shelters

would be done in accordance to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and therefore would not have any adverse effects. The renovations would be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, and proportion of the historic resources. These upgrades and renovations would prevent deterioration of contributing resources and help maintain the site consistently with its purpose as a National Cemetery and National Shrine. Therefore, they would be considered to have beneficial effects on cultural resources at the existing NRHP-eligible cemetery.

A Records Building would be constructed immediately adjacent to the Administration Building. It would be approximately 500 gross square feet and would consist of records storage space. It would not affect any of the character-defining features of the cemetery, would not diminish the design of the facility, and would not cause the loss of original materials. The construction of a new Records Building would not result in an adverse effect. It would be a contributing resource after its construction since it would fall within the period of significance for the cemetery, which is its establishment (1978) to the present. In addition, this new building would also conform to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties Rehabilitation*. It would be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to the NRHP-eligible historic district. Construction of his new building would have no adverse effects to aboveground resources. While there may be as-yet-unknown archaeological sites, mitigation, in consultation with the SHPO would reduce any impacts. Adherence to federal regulations would reduce potential effects on previously unknown sites during site preparation and construction. As a result, there would be no adverse effect to historic properties from renovations and new construction.

To comply with VA regulations, we would like to request review and concurrence with the determination that the undertaking would have no adverse effect on Historic Properties.

If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at 202-632-5879 or email at glenn.elliott@va.gov. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer P P/M

Concurrence with Effect Determination, Riverside County, California

_____ Concur _____ Do Not Concur

_____ Date _____

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

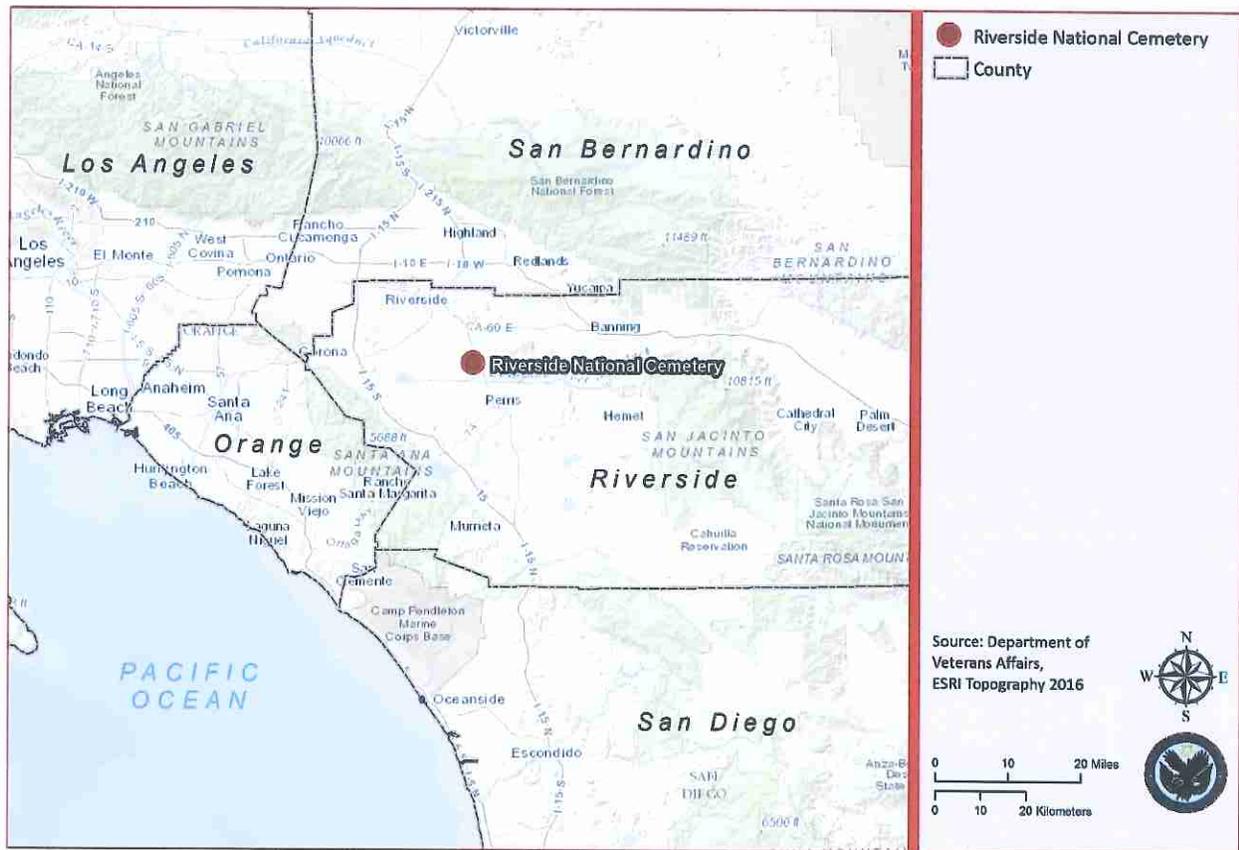


Figure 1. Site Location

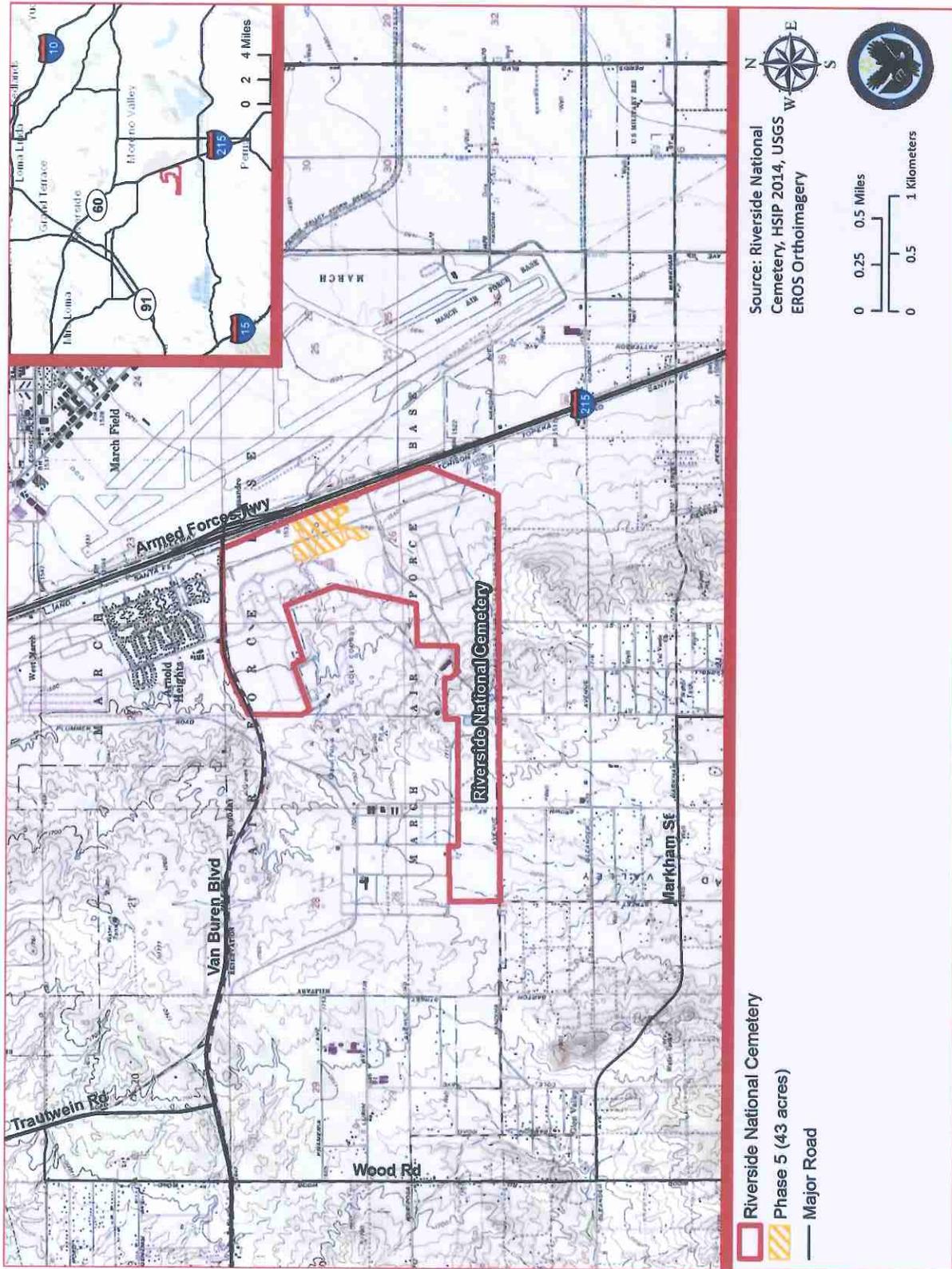


Figure 2. Riverside National Cemetery Original Site and Expansion Site (Riverside East and Steele Peak USGS topographic maps)

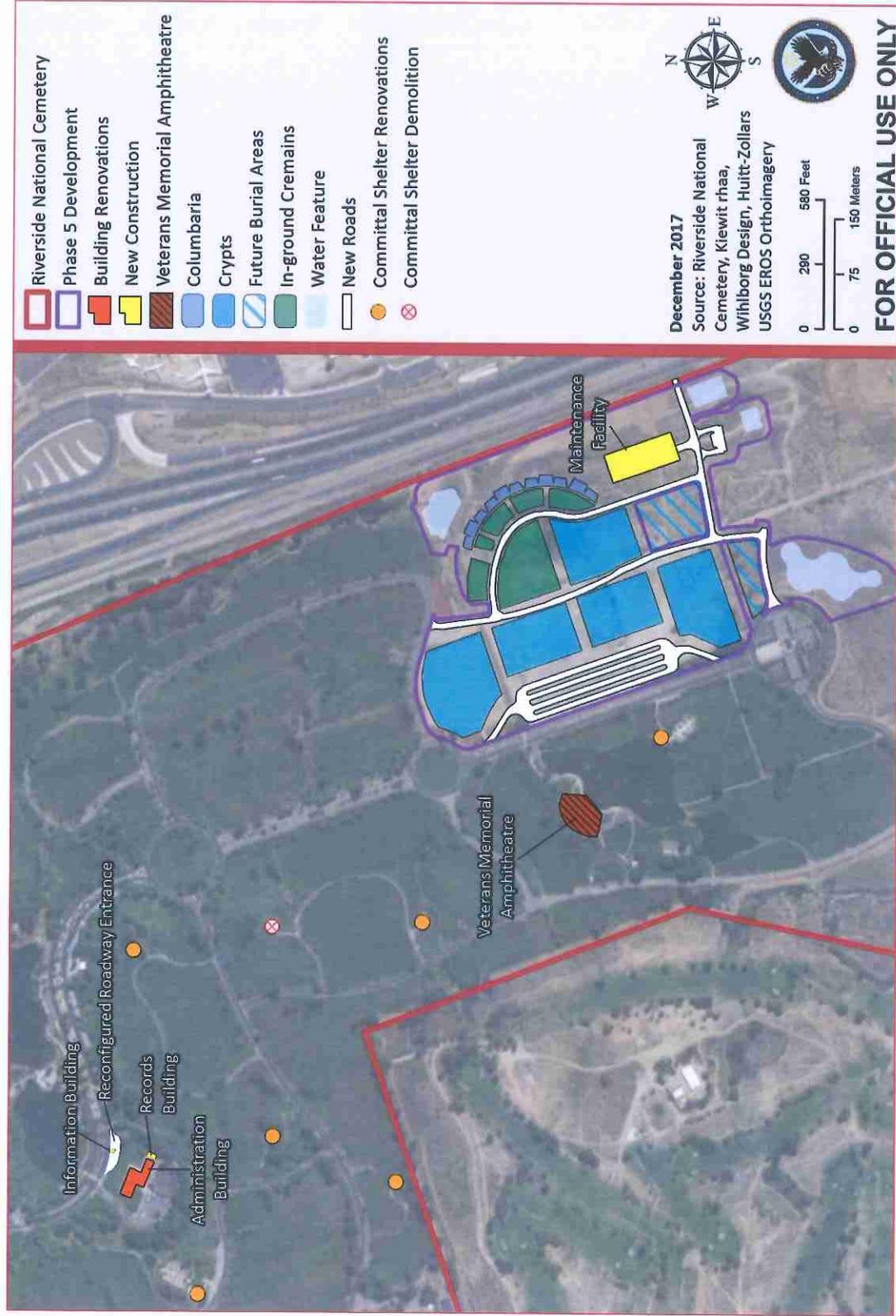


Figure 3. Proposed Facility Upgrades on Riverside National Cemetery



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, *Director*

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

April 5, 2018

Reply in Reference To: VA_2018_0309_001

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M
Office of Construction and Facilities Management
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
425 I Street, NW, Suite 6W417A
Washington DC, 20420

Re: Section 106 Consultation for Improvements and Expansion, Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside County

Dear Mr. Elliott:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating consultation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 300101), as amended, and its implementing regulation found at 36 CFR Part 800.

The VA are proposing to expand the boundaries and initiate improvements to the Riverside National Cemetery, an eligible National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) property. The approximately 126 acre expansion area will consist of shelters, crypts, columbaria, burial sections and will require storm water system, road and circulation improvements. The VA are requesting concurrence with their finding of no adverse effect. After reviewing the information provided, the SHPO has the following comments:

1. The SHPO assumes that pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(1), the VA have defined and delineated the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as the cemetery and the proposed expansion boundaries. Please notify the SHPO if there are any objections or clarifications to this interpretation.
2. The VA's letter mentions that two bedrock milling sites and a trash scatter were identified during a 2017 pedestrian survey of the APE and were identified as not eligible for NRHP inclusion but did not confirm whether the VA submitted the evaluations of these three sites to the SHPO. If the VA have not done so, these evaluations should be submitted for the SHPO's review and concurrence.
3. In reference to proposed construction of a Records Building and the renovations of the Administration Building (constructed in 1978), the VA

maintains that all such work will be constructed in accordance with the Secretary's Standards and be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, proportion and massing with the cemetery's historic character however, no photographs, plans, analysis or discussion of how this will be accomplished has been provided in support of this statement. Photographs, plans or drawings (if available) and a summary of the cemetery's contributing elements would be useful implements for this review. The SHPO does not anticipate that this undertaking component will adversely affect historic properties but seeks an explanation in support of these assertions.

4. The SHPO seeks clarification on the VA's determination that "while there may be as-yet unidentified archeological sites, mitigation, in consultation with the SHPO would reduce any impacts . . . (and) . . . adherence to federal regulations would reduce potential effects on previously unknown sites during site preparation and construction."
5. After reviewing the VA's summary of tribal notification and consultation efforts the SHPO requests that all tribal comments and replies are forwarded for review. The VA's letter also mentions the completion of an ethnographic study prepared at the request of the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. The SHPO asks that the VA provide a copy of the study for reference during this and future reviews of undertakings within the area addressed in the study.
6. Until the receipt and review of the information and clarification requested in this letter occurs, the SHPO cannot concur with the VA's proposed finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. The SHPO looks forward to continuing this consultation with the VA to ensure that the undertaking's effects on historic properties are taken into account.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Ed Carroll of my staff at (916) 445-7006 / Ed.Carroll@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

May 3, 2018

Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
California Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: Reference VA_2018_0309_001 Environmental Assessment – *National Environmental Policy Act* and *National Historic Preservation Act* Section 106 Consultation Initiation, Proposed Department of Veterans Affairs, Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Riverside, Riverside County, City of Riverside, California

Dear Ms. Polanco:

Thank you for your response of April 5, 2018 regarding the above-referenced project. The VA sent you a letter initiating formal consultation on February 27, 2018, providing information on the proposed undertaking and requesting concurrence on our No Effect determination. You had six comments which we address here.

1. In answer to your first comment, the APE is as follows: for below-ground, the APE is the entire area where ground disturbance might directly affect archaeological resources, should any be located within the project area, this includes the locations within both the existing cemetery and the expansion area. For above-ground resources, the APE is the entire boundary of the Riverside National Cemetery, both the existing and the expansion areas.

The below-ground APE within the existing cemetery ground disturbance will occur where the roads at the entrance, by the information building, are to be reconfigured; the locations where the proposed public information building and the proposed Records Storage Building will be placed; landscaping and fencing areas; and the approximately 200,000 cubic yards of cut and fill on the property in the expansion area. The entire expansion area is part of the below-ground APE, as shown in Attachment A.

2. In answer to your second question, our original letter may not have been clear. There has not been a survey in the project area. Information on the nearby archaeological sites was included in our original letter, and the two bedrock milling sites and trash scatter were identified in the General Archie Old Golf Course project area, to the west of this current project area.

3. In response to your third question, we have attached several architectural renderings for the proposed renovations and new construction; see Attachment A. The Master Plan, which was developed in the mid-1970s following site selection of the cemetery, explains that the architecture of the cemetery was to follow a theme inspired by indigenous architectural elements of the southwest. This theme was chosen for its strong interconnection between building and environment and according to the Master Plan, buildings as an extension of the landscape. The designs are to stress the availability of views and blend the transition between interior and exterior spaces. The Master Plan also explains that structures related to operations, such as the maintenance yard, are to reflect common architectural elements but be of a utilitarian design expressing economy and efficiency. The plans for the proposed construction will continue the design theme as set out in the Master Plan.

The Administration Building, an original building constructed in 1978, has a modern prairie style of a flat roof, wide eaves, and is one story. The renovations are necessary for maintenance of the building and will not affect the appearance or function of the resource. Construction of the Records Building will be similar in scale, massing, proportion, and style to existing buildings, and its proximity to the Administration Building will allow it to blend in with the existing built fabric. Similar to other extant buildings, the Records Building and Information Building (both to be constructed within the existing cemetery) will be of a similar height and feature similar details such as a low roof profile, employ earth tone wall masonry walls, and have a deep roof fascia of dark-stained wood. These details are also described in the Master Plan as common architectural elements to be used in the designs. See Attachment A for a floor plan/site plan of the Administration Building, with the adjacent Records Building, as well perspective drawings of the Records Building, Information Building, and Restroom Building (the latter to be constructed in the expansion area).

Six committal shelters will be renovated with replacement roofs, which will be matched to the existing. See Attachment A for the architectural plans. Other work to the shelters will include general maintenance, such as repainting.

4. An archaeological survey has not been conducted on the subject property. We suggest that should archaeological remains be identified, an Inadvertent Discovery Plan be included in the construction contractor plans and material, and that a professional archaeologist on-call monitor be available as needed.
5. Letters were sent to the tribes listed below on February 2, 2018. All tribal responses to date are included as Attachment B to this letter. These include responses from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Pala Band of Mission Indians, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Serrano

Nation of Mission Indians, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians	Pala Band of Mission Indians
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians
Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians	Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe	Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
Cocopah Indian Reservation	Ramona Band of Cahuilla
Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado River Indian Reservation	Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation	San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians
Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians	San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Gabrieleño/Tongva Nation	Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians	Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation	Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians	Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla Cupeño Indians	Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

The ethnographic study is confidential as requested by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians so we have not included it in this response. We are contacting the Soboba Band to request permission to share it, although we realize that document is not required to move forward.

6. Noted. We believe the above responses address your questions and look forward to further consultation and concurrence of the VA's No Adverse Effect determination.

If you have any additional comments please contact me by telephone at 202-632-5879 or by email at glenn.elliott@va.gov. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

May 10, 2018

Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
California Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: Reference VA_2018_0309_001 Environmental Assessment – *National Environmental Policy Act* and *National Historic Preservation Act* Section 106 Consultation Initiation, Proposed Department of Veterans Affairs, Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Riverside, Riverside County, City of Riverside, California

Dear Ms. Polanco:

Thank you for your response of April 5, 2018 regarding the above-referenced project. Since that time there have been slight modifications to the Proposed Action. No work will occur to the existing Administration Building. In addition, the six committal shelters will not be renovated.

The VA sent you a letter initiating formal consultation on February 27, 2018, providing information on the proposed undertaking and requesting concurrence on our No Effect determination. You had six comments which we address here.

1. In answer to your first comment, the APE is as follows: for below-ground, the APE is the entire area where ground disturbance might directly affect archaeological resources, should any be located within the project area, this includes the locations within both the existing cemetery and the expansion area. For above-ground resources, the APE is the entire boundary of the Riverside National Cemetery, both the existing and the expansion areas.

The below-ground APE within the existing cemetery ground disturbance will occur where the roads at the entrance, by the information building, are to be reconfigured; the locations where the proposed public information building and the proposed Records Storage Building will be placed; landscaping and fencing areas; and the approximately 200,000 cubic yards of cut and fill on the property in the expansion area. The entire expansion area is part of the below-ground APE, as shown in Attachment A.

2. In answer to your second question, our original letter may not have been clear. There has not been a survey in the project area. Information on the nearby archaeological sites was included in our original letter, and the two bedrock milling sites and trash scatter were identified in the General Archie Old Golf Course project area, to the west of this current project area.
3. In response to your third question, we have attached several architectural renderings for the proposed renovations and new construction; see Attachment A. The Master Plan, which was developed in the mid-1970s following site selection of the cemetery, explains that the architecture of the cemetery was to follow a theme inspired by indigenous architectural elements of the southwest. This theme was chosen for its strong interconnection between building and environment and according to the Master Plan, buildings as an extension of the landscape. The designs are to stress the availability of views and blend the transition between interior and exterior spaces. The Master Plan also explains that structures related to operations, such as the maintenance yard, are to reflect common architectural elements but be of a utilitarian design expressing economy and efficiency. The plans for the proposed construction will continue the design theme as set out in the Master Plan.

Construction of the Records Building will be similar in scale, massing, proportion, and style to existing buildings, and its proximity to the Administration Building will allow it to blend in with the existing built fabric. Similar to other extant buildings, the Records Building and Information Building (both to be constructed within the original cemetery property) will be of a similar height and feature similar details such as a low roof profile, employ earth tone wall masonry walls, and have a deep roof fascia of dark-stained wood. These details are also described in the Master Plan as common architectural elements to be used in the designs. See Attachment A for perspective drawings of the Records Building, Information Building, and Restroom Building (the latter to be constructed in the expansion area).

4. An archaeological survey has not been conducted on the subject property. We suggest that should archaeological remains be identified, an Inadvertent Discovery Plan be included in the construction contractor plans and material, and that a professional archaeologist on-call monitor be available as needed. The expansion site is grassland and grassland-scrub mixed stands. There has been previous disturbance of the ground surface, and portions of the area have been previously used as roads and storage areas and was the site of March AFB.
5. Letters were sent to the tribes listed below on February 2, 2018. All tribal responses to date are included as Attachment B to this letter. These include responses from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Pala Band of Mission Indians, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Serrano Nation of Mission Indians, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.

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Juaneño Band of Mission Indians	Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation	Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
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Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla Cupeño Indians	Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

The ethnographic study is confidential as requested by the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians so we have not included it in this response. We are contacting the Soboba Band to request permission to share it, although we realize that document is not required to move forward.

6. Noted. We believe the above responses address your questions and look forward to further consultation and concurrence of the VA's No Adverse Effect determination.

If you have any additional comments please contact me by telephone at 202-632-5879 or by email at glenn.elliott@va.gov. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

5/10/2018

X Glenn Elliott

Glenn Elliott

Signed by: people

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

June 8, 2018

Reply In Reference To: VA_2018_0309_001

Glenn Elliott
Environmental Engineer, P P/M
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Department of Veterans Affairs
425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417A
Washington, DC 20001-2542

RE: Section 106 Consultation for Improvements and Expansion, Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside County, California (VA's letter of May 10, 2018)

Dear Mr. Elliott:

At the SHPO's request and pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.11(e), the VA provided supplementary documentation in support of their determination that their proposal to improve and expand the Riverside National Cemetery will not adversely affect historic properties. The VA's response to the SHPO's letter of April 5, 2018 is summarized and addressed in the following comments:

- 1) The SHPO requested additional information regarding two bedrock milling sites and a trash scatter that were identified during a 2017 pedestrian survey of the APE:
 - a. In their letter of February 27, 2018, the VA inadvertently stated the three subject sites are located in the APE of the current proposed undertaking rather than their true location within the boundaries of the General Archie Old Golf Course project area which is located west of the current APE. It is the SHPO's understanding that these sites will be unaffected by the currently proposed undertaking.
- 2) The VA was asked to justify their assertion that a pedestrian survey of the APE is unnecessary and that "other than the NRHP-eligible cemetery itself, there are no other known cultural resources within, or adjacent to, the cemetery expansion project area." (VA to SHPO: February 27, 2018):
 - a. At this time, the VA have not completed a pedestrian survey of the APE and believe that an inadvertent discovery plan (which has not been written at this time) and the availability of a professional archaeologist on-call monitor would minimize adverse effects on inadvertently discovered cultural resources.

Mr. Glenn Elliott
June 8, 2018

VA_2018_0309_001

- 4) The SHPO stated that until the receipt and review of the information and clarification requested in their April 5, 2018 letter, concurrence with the VA's proposed finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties would not be forthcoming:
 - a. Due to insufficiencies in the information presented VA's recent letter, the SHPO **objects** to the VA's finding of No Adverse Effect and looks forward to receiving and reviewing the information requested in this letter.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Ed Carroll of my staff at (916) 445-7006 / Ed.Carroll@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request January 8, 2018				
Name of Project Riverside National Cemetery Phase 5 EA		Federal Agency Involved Department of Veterans Affairs				
Proposed Land Use National Cemetery		County and State Riverside, California				
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size 180 ac	
Major Crop(s) CITRUS, ROW CROPS, GRAIN	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: N/A %	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: N/A %				
Name of Land Evaluation System Used STORIE INDEX	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System N/A	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 2/20/18 RSH				
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		19.22				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		22.89				
C. Total Acres In Site		42				
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		0				
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland		0				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		N/A				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		N/A				
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		30				
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)	10			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)	7			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)	0			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)	10			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)	0			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)	0			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)	0			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)	0			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)	0			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)	0			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)	0			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)	0			
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	27	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	27	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	27	0	0	0
Site Selected:		Date Of Selection		Was A Local Site Assessment Used?		
				YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
Reason For Selection:						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: Glenn Elliott					Date: 8 Jan 2018	