

O-15 San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians

Comment Letter O-15

SAN LUIS REY BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

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August 14, 2017

Ashley Smith
Project Manager
Department of Planning & Development Services
County of San Diego
5510 Overland, Ste. 310
San Diego, CA 92123

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Ashley.Smith2@sdcounty.ca.gov

**RE: COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
NEWLAND SIERRA PROJECT (NO. PDS2015-ER-15-08-001; SCH NO.
2015021036. PROJECT NUMBERS: PDS2015-GPA-15-001, PDS2015-SP-15-001,
PDS2015-REZ-15-001, PDS2015-TM- 5597)**

Dear Ms. Smith:

We, the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians ("Tribe"), have received and reviewed the County of San Diego's ("County's") Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") and all of its supporting documentation as it pertains specifically to the protection and preservation of Luiseño tribal cultural resources that may be located within the parameters of Newland Sierra Project's ("Project's") property boundaries and areas of impact, including, but not limited to, improvements to Deer Springs Road. The Tribe and the County have been actively engaged in government-to-government consultation regarding this Project since before 2015 via Senate Bill 18 consultation. The Tribe continues to discuss with the County and the Project Applicant the cultural sensitivity of the proposed development areas, culturally appropriate mitigation measures for the significant negative impacts the development may cause and intends to continue to consult with both entities during the DEIR process.

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The San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians appreciates this opportunity to provide the County of San Diego with our comments on the Newland Sierra Project; however, declines to provide any specific comments on the document at this time and wishes to continue to discuss any modifications to the document via the SB 18 confidential process. Supplemental comments will be provided to the County once the document has gone through the public comment process and a final document is presented for public review. As always, we look forward to working with the County to guarantee that the requirements of the CEQA are rigorously applied to this Project and all projects. We thank you for your continuing assistance in protecting our invaluable Luiseño tribal cultural resources and sacred places.

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Sincerely,



Merri Lopez-Keifer
Chief Legal Counsel

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