

Draft Responses to Comment Letter FF

Rincon Tribe  
 Rose Duro  
 March 18, 2013

	Comment	Response to Comment
FF -1	This letter is from the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, and is in response to the notice of February 01, 2013 from your office regarding the above named project. A portion of the proposed project is located within the Aboriginal Territory of the Luiseño people, and also within Rincon’s historic boundaries.	This comment is introductory in nature and does not raise a significant environmental issue for which a response is required.
FF -2	We object to the language of Section 2.5.4, Mitigation, that states “such mitigation would not require consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and local tribal governments relative to historical resources” (page 2.5-9). The NAHC and local tribal governments are the best sources of information for information pertaining to Native American historical resources, and it would be a grave injustice to preclude these entities from inclusion in the process. We recommend that consultation with Native American tribal governments and the NAHC be included in the appropriate provision.	This comment expressing concern that the language in Section 2.5.4 of the Draft SEIR would not require consultation with the NAHC and local tribal governments relative to historical resources. This Draft SEIR statement is referring specifically to the application of mitigation measure Cul-2.6 which is written broadly to apply to cultural resources, including historic and archaeological resources. The County would conduct all required tribal consultations and coordination with agencies to identify cultural resources; however the original comment is referring to the fact that consultation with the NAHC and local tribal governments is not required when dealing with historic resources. The County would continue to consult with the NAHC and local tribal governments when resources are prehistoric in nature and created or used by local tribes. The County does agree that NAHC and local tribal governments are critical sources of information pertaining to Native American cultural resources, and will continue to engage in consultation (Sacred Lands and/or SB-18) with local tribes during the processing of discretionary projects. The County does

**Draft Responses to Comments**

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response to Comment</b>
		provide copies of studies which include mitigation measures to any tribe who requests the study. The tribes can provide comment at any time during the processing of a project. Therefore, no changes to the environmental document are required.
<b>FF -3</b>	<p>We support the proposed measures at Policy COS-7.1 through Policy COS-7.4, and associated Mitigation Measures Cul-2.1 through Cul-2.6, that mandate Native American consultation, protection, avoidance, preservation, monitoring, and cultural sensitivity. Additionally, we support Policy COS-7.5, and associated Mitigation Measure Cul-4.1, regarding Human Remains as the protection of our ancestors' remains is a significant priority in our Cultural Resource protection efforts. We conclude that these strategies will ensure the preservation of important Luiseño and other Tribal cultural resources.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact (760) 297-2635. Thank you for this opportunity to protect and preserve our cultural assets.</p>	The comment's support for the General Plan policies on cultural resources is noted and will be in the Final SEIR for review and consideration by the County Board of Supervisors.