



## COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200  
Palm Desert, California 92260  
Phone: (760) 346-1127

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### ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY

**Project Title:** La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Barrier Project

**Project No:** NA

**Lead Agency  
Name and Address:** Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200  
Palm Desert, California 92260  
(760) 346-1127

**Applicant:** Coachella Valley Conservation Commission

**Representative:** Terra Nova Planning & Research, Inc.  
42635 Melanie Place, Suite 101  
Palm Desert, California 92211  
Phone: (760) 341-4800 Fax: (760) 341-4455

**Contact Person:  
And Phone Number:** John D. Criste, AICP  
Phone: (760) 341-4800, Fax: (760) 341-4455

**Project Location:** Vicinity of Lake Cahuilla and Extending North, West and South Along the Santa Rosa Mountain Foothills, City of La Quinta, Riverside County

**Coachella Valley MSHCP  
Conservation Area:** Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area

**General Plan Designations:** La Quinta General Plan:  
Open Space – Natural; Low-Density Residential; Open Space – Recreation;  
Tourist Commercial

**Zoning Designations:** La Quinta Zoning Ordinance:  
Open Space; Low Density Residential; Golf Course; Tourist Commercial; Parks  
and Recreation; Flood Plain

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This “Project” is being planned and proposed to address the urban-related impacts of Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (PBS; *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) using artificial sources of food and water in urbanized lands, including golf course and resort residential lands, in the La Quinta area of the Coachella Valley. PBS are listed as Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act and as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. Peninsular bighorn sheep are also a fully protected species in California.

In addition to full state and federal protection, this species is also a covered species under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The CVMSHCP makes provisions for management actions in instances where PBS are using urbanized areas and are exposed to associated hazards. In February 2014 the state and federal Wildlife Agencies sent a letter informing the CVCC and the City of La Quinta that Peninsular bighorn sheep were regularly visiting several golf courses in the La Quinta area. This notification called for a plan of action to prevent or exclude PBS from “. . . using artificial sources of food or water in unfenced areas of existing urban Development within or near a Conservation Area.” Section 8.2.4.1 of the CVMSHCP identifies a barrier, an eight-foot fence or functional equivalent, as a management action to prevent PBS access to these areas.

The Project involves the construction of an approximately 9.5± mile barrier or functional equivalent along the mountain urban interface extending from the Quarry Golf Club to the south, north along the toe of slope west of Lake Cahuilla and the PGA West development, along the SilverRock golf course on the north, and west and south along the foothills adjacent to the Tradition (please see Exhibit 3). The subject lands are located along the toe of slope of the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains. They include portions of championship golf courses, high value residences, Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area and the aforementioned Coachella Branch of the All-American Canal.

A variety of barriers and other methods are being explored to prevent PBS access to urbanized areas, and the subject Project is examining possible alternatives to fencing to keep sheep from accessing the golf courses and associated developments, and the Coachella Branch Canal that bounds much of the eastern portion of the Project area. Alternative alignments are also being evaluated. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has already constructed a fence of approximately 2,976 feet adjacent to the canal, as shown in Exhibit 3, which also depicts possible alternative route alignments.

### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the proposed Project is to prevent continuing impacts to sheep from urban-based threats associated with development adjoining sheep habitat. The Project purpose includes the development and implementation of a plan that will result in the safe and effective exclusion of PBS from adjoining urban lands described above. The purpose of the Project is also, to the extent practicable, to collect additional information on the local population of sheep and how they use and move through the subject habitat. The project is intended to examine other alternatives to a fence, including alternative barrier design and/or location, habitat enhancements, and translocation of the local ewe group.

### Statement of Need

The City of La Quinta and the Coachella Valley are located at the western edge of the Colorado Desert sub-unit of the Sonoran Desert. Peninsular Bighorn Sheep inhabit the lower elevations of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains where they are well adapted to the harsh desert conditions. The foothills and valley floor generally support sparse vegetation, which is limited by heat and aridity. Bighorn sheep also

depend on the canyons, washes and alluvial fans emanating from the mountains, which typically support a variety of plants and animals, as water is periodically and sometimes perennially available in the larger canyons.

The Peninsular Range population includes bighorn sheep in eight known ewe groups or “sub-populations” from the San Jacinto Mountains near Palm Springs south into Baja California. Urban development along the toe of the slopes has pushed PBS out of much of their alluvial fan habitat, eliminating or restricting access to historic forage and bedding areas. Land management agencies, wildlife biologists, and communities have attempted to balance land development with the desire to protect sensitive and iconic species such as PBS.

Portions of the project area are within or near designated critical habitat for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. The Bighorn Sheep Recovery Plan (USFWS 2000) provides guidance for actions to protect the sheep and to enhance their chance for recovery and eventual delisting. The CVMSHCP identifies goals and objectives to maintain and enhance PBS populations through adaptive management of the species and their habitat.

Alternative barrier routes will be investigated based upon a screening process that ensures all relevant functional and safety goals are met. The potential beneficial and adverse impacts associated with barrier solutions will be fully described, including the limited or area-specific application of the barrier solution. Alternative barrier types, including vegetation, electronic barriers, and canal bridge gates will also be evaluated.

## **PROJECT LOCATION AND LIMITS**

The Project area is located along the toe of slope of the Santa Rosa Mountain foothills and within portions of Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 20 and 29, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, SBB&M in the Coachella Valley area of the central portion of Riverside County. The Project involves and is bounded by lands and facilities of private golf course developments, lands on the mountain-side of the Coachella Branch Canal and the north and west shores of Lake Cahuilla. Most of the Project area can be found on the USGS La Quinta 7.5' Quadrangle Map.

Also see Exhibits 1, 2 and 3.

## **LAND USE AND SETTING**

- North: Residential and resort development, including golf courses, lakes, etc. Avenue 52 also occurs to the north.
- East: Residential and resort development, including golf courses, lakes, etc. Coachella Branch Canal also occurs to the immediate east. Jefferson Street occurs to the east of golf course developments.
- South: Santa Rosa Mountains and foothills
- West: Residential and resort development, including golf courses, lakes, etc. Avenida Bermudas also occurs to the west.

# CALIFORNIA

PACIFIC  
OCEAN

MEXICO



# RIVERSIDE COUNTY



10.21.15





Source: Google Earth, 2016



CVCC Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Barrier Project  
Project Vicinity Map  
La Quinta, California

Exhibit

2





Proposed Project Alignment: .....

Existing CVWD Barrier: - - - -

0 3,300 ft  
1" = 3,300 ft



02233165

Source: Google Earth, 2016

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:


The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist or represents an area of concern that should be further analyzed, as indicated on the following pages.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology /Soils
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology / Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Land Use / Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Population / Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities / Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance

**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

 Signature: John D. Criste, AICP Commission Planning Consultant Coachella Valley Conservation Commission	Date: <u>2/23/16</u>
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### Environmental Checklist and Discussion:

The following checklist evaluates the proposed project's potential adverse impacts. For those environmental topics for which a potential adverse impact may exist, a discussion of the existing site environment related to the topic is presented followed by an analysis of the project's potential adverse impacts. When the project does not have any potential for adverse impacts for an environmental topic, the reasons why there are no potential adverse impacts are described.

1. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** Preliminary site assessment; La Quinta General Plan 2013.

- a, c) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The dominant visual feature in the project area is the steep, rocky slopes of the Santa Rosa Mountains, which offer highly valued viewsheds that can be seen from many locations throughout the valley. It is anticipated that the barrier will have less than significant impacts on scenic vistas when viewed from a distance. At close proximity, however, the barrier will be visible and could detract from the existing visual character of the site. The significance of impacts will depend, in part, on surrounding terrain and viewer sensitivity. Where the barrier is close to existing residential lots and golf course facilities, viewers may be more sensitive to the barrier. In less developed locations, visual impacts are expected to be less significant. Impacts will also depend on surrounding terrain, including the steepness of slopes and presence of vegetation that may shield portions of the barrier from view. Potential visual impacts, as well as alternative barrier routes and types, should be considered and further analyzed in the Project EIR.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will be located along the toe of slope of the Santa Rosa Mountains, which is characterized by rocky outcroppings and sparse vegetation. The project is not expected to adversely impact these resources. Potential impacts should be further evaluated in the EIR.

No historic buildings occur on site, and there are no state-designated scenic highways in the project vicinity. No project-related impacts to these features will occur.

- d) **No Impact.** The project could generate minimal light or glare from construction vehicles and equipment during the construction phase, but it will be temporary and will end once the project is complete. The project area is adjacent to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and, therefore, will be required to comply with applicable Land Use Adjacency Guidelines pertaining to lighting. No long-term light or glare will be generated by the project.

### Mitigation Measures:

See forthcoming EIR.

### Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:

See forthcoming EIR.

<b>2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES</b> -- In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** La Quinta General Plan 2013; "Riverside County Important Farmland 2010" map, California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, 2012.

- a-c) **No Impact.** The project area is designated as "Urban and Built-Up Land" and "Other Land" on the Department of Conservation Farmland maps, and there are no agricultural lands within several miles of the site. Portions of the project area are in close proximity to the Coachella Branch of the All-American Canal and Lake Cahuilla, which support agricultural irrigation activities in the eastern Coachella Valley. The project will not result in the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses, conflict with zoning for agricultural uses or Williamson Act contracts, or otherwise result in adverse impacts to farmland, the Coachella Canal, or Lake Cahuilla.

**Mitigation Measures:**

None required.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

None required.

<b>3. AIR QUALITY</b> – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Sources:** SCAQMD AQMP, 2012; Coachella Valley PM<sub>10</sub> SIP, 2003; South Coast Air Quality Management District CEQA Handbook, 1993; City of La Quinta General Plan, 2013.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project is located within the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), which includes Imperial County and most of the low desert areas of central Riverside County. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regulates the Riverside County portion of the SSAB

Applicable air quality plans for the project include the 2012 SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and the 2010 Coachella Valley PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Plan (CVMP). The AQMP is designed to satisfy the planning requirements of both the federal and California Clean Air Acts. It outlines strategies and measures to achieve federal and state standards for healthful air quality for all areas under SCAQMD's jurisdiction, including portions of the SSAB. The CVMP identifies additional strategies and measures to control fugitive dust specifically in the Coachella Valley.

The proposed project is expected to generate temporary, short-lived emissions from fugitive dust and vehicles and equipment during construction. Over the long-term, the project will not induce population or employment growth beyond the levels approved in the AQMP. Therefore, the proposed project will not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the AQMP. The project is also expected to be designed and constructed in a manner consistent with the goals and policies of the La Quinta General Plan Air Quality Element, which calls for prudent measures that limit the emission of air pollutants. Impacts will be less than significant.

- b, c) **Less than Significant Impact.** An impact is potentially significant if concentration of emissions exceed the State or Federal Ambient Air Quality Standards. The two primary pollutants of concern in the Coachella Valley, including the City of La Quinta, are ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is formed when byproducts of combustion react in the presence of ultraviolet sunlight. This process occurs in the atmosphere where oxides of nitrogen combine with reactive organic gases, such as hydrocarbons, in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is a pungent, colorless, toxic gas, and a common component of photochemical smog. Although also produced within the Coachella Valley, most ozone pollutants are transported by coastal air mass from the Los Angeles and Riverside/San Bernardino air



basins, thereby contributing to occasionally high ozone concentrations in the Valley. The Coachella Valley has a history of exceeding regulatory ozone standards, although the number of days and months the Federal one-hour standard is exceeded has dropped steadily over the past decade.

Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) consists of fine suspended particles of ten microns or smaller in diameter, and is the byproduct of road dust, sand, diesel soot, windstorms, and the abrasion of tires and brakes. The elderly, children and adults with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular disease are most susceptible to the effects of PM. Elevated PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels are also associated with an increase in mortality rates, respiratory infections, occurrences and severity of asthma attacks and hospital admissions. The SSAB is a non-attainment area for PM<sub>10</sub> and is classified as attainment/unclassifiable for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), in conjunction with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), Riverside County and local jurisdictions, prepared the “2003 Coachella Valley PM<sub>10</sub> State Implementation Plan,” which includes PM<sub>10</sub> control program enhancements and requests an extension of the region’s PM<sub>10</sub> attainment date. The Coachella Valley is designated as a serious non-attainment area for PM<sub>10</sub> and is subject to the 2003 State Implementation Plan (SIP) and local dust control regulations and guidelines. A State Implementation Plan that addresses how Southern California will meet federal standards for finer particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) was adopted in 2007. The Coachella Valley is designated as unclassifiable/attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

The concerted adoption of District and local controls in the Coachella Valley resulted in this area attaining the 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standard by the 2006 attainment date. On January 8, 2010, the District adopted the PM<sub>10</sub> Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the Coachella Valley (Coachella Valley PM<sub>10</sub> Maintenance Plan). The plan officially requests this area be redesignated to attainment for the PM<sub>10</sub> standard and charts the course for continued maintenance of the standard.

State and federal standards have been established for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, as well as ozone, and are shown in the table below.

**Table 1**  
**State and National Ambient Air Quality Standards**

Pollutant	State Standards		National Standards**	
	Averaging Time	Concentration	Averaging Time	Concentration
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	1-hour 8-hour	0.09 ppm 0.07 ppm	1-hour 8-hour	0.070 ppm
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1-hour 8-hour	20.0 ppm 9.0 ppm	1-hour 8-hour	35.0 ppm 9.0 ppm
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	1-hour AAM	0.18 ppm 0.030 ppm	AAM	0.10 ppm* 0.053 ppm
Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	1-hour 24-hour	0.25 ppm 0.04 ppm	1 & 24 hour AAM	.075ppm**
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> )	24-hour AAM	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> 20 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	24-hour AAM	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	AAM 24-hour	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup> 35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	AAM 24-hour	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup> 35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Lead	30 day Avg.	1.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	3 month Avg.	0.15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Visibility Reducing Particles	8-hour	No standard	No federal Standard	No federal Standard
Sulfates	24-hour	25µg/m <sup>3</sup>	No federal Standard	No federal Standard
Hydrogen Sulfide	1-hour	0.03 ppm	No federal Standard	No federal Standard
Vinyl Chloride	24-hour	0.01 ppm	No federal Standard	No federal Standard
Source: California Air Resources Board, 06/04/13 Notes: ppm = parts per million; ppb= parts per billion; µg/ m <sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter of air; AAM = Annual Arithmetic Mean; * Note that this standard became effective as of January 22,2010. ** Final rule signed June 2, 2010, effective as of August 23,2010				

The Coachella Valley has a history of exceeding regulatory ozone standards and is classified as a “severe-15” ozone non-attainment area under the federal Clean air Act.

For the proposed project, pollutants will be generated during the construction phase by construction vehicles and equipment, and limited ground disturbance required for barrier construction. However, impacts will be temporary and short-lived. Pollutant emissions are not expected to contribute to a significant cumulative net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment. Long-term impacts will be negligible, as emissions will be generated only during occasional vehicle trips to the project site for inspections and repairs. Impacts are expected to be less than significant. An assessment of potential emissions should be included in the EIR.

- d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The nearest sensitive receptors are residences in the Tradition, PGA West, and Quarry developments. Impacts are expected to be less than significant given the short-term duration of the construction phase; however, an assessment of potential air quality impacts to sensitive receptors should be provided in the EIR.
- e) **No Impact.** The project will not generate objectionable odors that would affect a substantial number of people. No impact will occur.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

4. <b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b> -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Sources:** City of La Quinta General Plan, 2013; Biological Survey Report for the Coachella Canal Relocation - SilverRock Country Club, 2013; California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB); Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan, 2008; "Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2000; "Biological Survey Report, Coachella Canal Relocation, SilverRock Country Club, La Quinta, California," Coachella Valley Water District, October 2013.

- a) **Less than Significant With Mitigation.** The project area is located along the toe of slope of the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains, in which Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (PBS; *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) have been observed and documented. PBS are listed as "Endangered" under the federal Endangered Species Act and "Threatened" under the California Endangered Species Act. The species is also covered under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CV MSHCP), and the project site is immediately adjacent to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area of the CVMSHCP (see 4.f, below).



The proposed project is planned to effectively and safely exclude PBS access to adjacent, downslope lands, which include championship golf courses, high value residences, Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area, and the Coachella Branch of the All-American Canal. During construction, the project area will be accessed by construction equipment and personnel. However, the construction phase will be temporary and short-lived, and will occur in the least disruptive manner possible. After construction, periodic inspections and occasional maintenance activity will occur over the life of the project. The project will not result in substantial changes to existing terrain, and no significant habitat modifications or direct impacts to PBS or other species are anticipated. It is expected that, with proper barrier design and temporary construction measures in place, project impacts will be less than significant.

A project-specific biological survey will be conducted to determine the extent to which the project may affect sensitive species. Members of the public have expressed concerns about the impact of a fence or other barrier which would prevent bighorn sheep from using food and water sources in urban areas during periods of drought. The Program EIR should analyze potential impacts to PBS and other special-status species, and set forth appropriate mitigation measures, if necessary, to minimize potential impacts.

- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project area includes several drainages that emanate from higher elevations of the Santa Rosa Mountains, some of which may contain riparian habitat and sensitive natural communities. However, project impacts are expected to be less than significant. The project-specific biological survey and Program EIR should further evaluate potential impacts to riparian habitat and sensitive natural communities and, if necessary, identify appropriate mitigation measures.
- c) **No Impact.** The project area does not contain federally protected wetlands, vernal pools, marshes, or coastal waters, and the project will not result in the dredging, fill, or alteration of protected waters. No impact will occur.
- d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** PBS use of urbanized areas in the project area has been well documented, and in some cases, has led to sickness, injury, and death among PBS. PBS use of golf courses and urban areas does not constitute a natural migratory movement corridor for the species. The proposed project will exclude PBS access to development along the 9.5± mile route and is expected to have a net positive impact on the protection of this species. The project is not expected to impede the use of nursery sites, which are typically located at elevations higher than the proposed barrier. The project is not expected to significantly interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or bird species. However, the barrier could limit the movement of certain wildlife species that are too large to penetrate the barrier. Potential impacts to wildlife movement or access to nursery sites should be further evaluated in the site-specific biological survey and the EIR.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not conflict with any city or county policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not conflict with the provisions of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) or any other adopted conservation plans. The project is within the coverage area of the CVMSHCP, a comprehensive regional plan encompassing approximately 1.1 million acres that will conserve approximately 240,000 acres of open space. The Plan addresses the conservation needs of a variety of plant and animal species and natural vegetation communities in the Coachella Valley region, including the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. It was finalized in October 2008 and establishes a system of preserves outside of urbanized areas to protect lands with high conservation value.

The project area is adjacent to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area of the CVMSHCP and, therefore, will be subject to the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines set forth in the Plan. The project is consistent with Land Use Adjacency Guideline 4.5.6, which recommends that land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area incorporate barriers, which can include fencing, to minimize the edge effects of development on the Conservation Area.

The project is also consistent with the Recovery Plan for the PBS, which was approved in 2000 by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service for the purpose of “securing and managing habitat in order to alleviate threats” to the species. The Recovery Plan was also signed by state agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Game and California Department of Parks and Recreation. The proposed project is consistent with the Plan’s Recommended Conservation Guidelines, which include construction of an 8-foot high fence that separates bighorn sheep from urbanized areas (p. 218). Project-related impacts to adopted conservation plans will be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Sources:** La Quinta General Plan, 2013; "Class III Cultural Resources Assessment for the Canal Water Conveyance System Relocation Project, Riverside County, California," Applied EarthWorks, Inc., September 2013; "A Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation of 'The Ranch' Project Area Located in the Community of La Quinta, California," McKenna et. al., September 12, 1999.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** A portion of the proposed project is in close proximity to the Coachella Canal, which transports imported Colorado River irrigation water from the All-American Canal to Lake Cahuilla. The Canal was built between 1935 and 1948. The original concrete-lined section of the Old Coachella Canal has been previously recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources as a model of canal construction during the 1930s and 1940s. Although the proposed project will not directly impact the Canal, the Program EIR should further evaluate potential project-related impacts. No other historic features are known to occur in the project area and, therefore, no impacts are anticipated.
- b, d) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation.** The Cahuilla were among the earliest Native American inhabitants of the Coachella Valley, and they are known to have occupied land near ancient Lake Cahuilla and the foothills of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. Numerous archaeological resources, including pottery scatters, habitation sites, and petroglyph-style rock art, have been identified and recorded in the project area. In several instances, human remains have been discovered. Ground-disturbing activities of the proposed project are expected to occur in the least disruptive manner possible; however, given its proximity to previously documented sites, the Program EIR should include analysis of archaeological resources in the project area, potential project-related impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures, if any.
- c) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation.** The project site is located at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains, in close proximity to the historic high water shoreline mark of ancient Lake Cahuilla. The lake underwent periods of inundation and recession in the lower Coachella Valley, and left behind fossilized sediments and shells in parts of the City. In the project vicinity, the granitic rock of the Santa Rosa Mountains has a low paleontological sensitivity, the valley floor has a high level of sensitivity, and the sensitivity level near the Cove is undetermined (La Quinta General Plan Exhibit III-5). Potential project-related impacts should be further evaluated in the Program EIR.

#### Recommended Minimization Measures

- A. Upon the uncovering or other discovery of artifacts or cultural resources during construction activities associated with the project's development, all disturbance activities in the vicinity of the find shall be halted, and a qualified archaeologist shall be called to the site to identify the resource and recommend mitigation in the event of the resource's cultural significance.



- B. In the event of human remains being discovered during project development, the State of California requires a coroner be contacted and all activities cease to assure proper disposal.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Sources:** La Quinta General Plan 2013; project materials; City of La Quinta Engineering Bulletin #09-03, June 18, 2010.

- a) i. **No Impact.** The project area is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone, and no active or potentially active fault runs through the project vicinity. Therefore, there will be no impacts associated with fault rupture on the project site.

- ii. **Less than Significant Impact.** The City of Quinta is located across the boundary of the Colorado Desert and Peninsula Ranges Provinces that include low-lying basins, northwest-trending valleys and mountain ranges. There are numerous earthquake-producing faults in this region, including the San Andreas Fault Zone (including the San Geronimo Pass Thrust Fault), San Jacinto Fault Zone, Pinto Mountain Fault, faults in the Eastern California Shear Zone (including the Burnt Mountain, Eureka Peak, and Pisgah-Bullion Mountain-Mesquite Lake faults), and the Elsinore Fault. The nearest fault to the project area is the San Andreas Fault, located approximately 10 miles to the northeast and capable of generating magnitude 7.4 earthquakes.

In the event of a strong seismic event, the proposed barrier could be damaged, and repairs may be required. The barrier will be located at a sufficient distance from nearby residences and other infrastructure such that any damage would not be expected to significantly impact surrounding properties. The project will not result in the construction of any structures intended for human occupation and, therefore, will not increase exposure of people to risks associated with strong seismic ground shaking. Impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- iii. **Less than Significant Impact.** The majority of the project site is located in an area of low liquefaction susceptibility. However, that portion near PGA West has a moderate liquefaction susceptibility due to a combination of youthful, unconsolidated sediments and a historically shallow groundwater table that is 30 to 50 feet below the ground surface. Although the proposed barrier could sustain damage from liquefaction in limited locations, impacts are not expected to be significant. The project will not expose people or buildings to significant hazards associated with seismic-related ground failure.

- iv. **Less than Significant Impact.** Given its location along the toe of slope of the Santa Rosa Mountains, the project area has a moderate to high susceptibility to slope instability. The proposed barrier could be damaged or destroyed in some locations in the event of a landslide or rock fall. However, the project will not result in the construction of buildings or major improvements that would substantially increase risks to people, and the proposed barrier will be located at a sufficient distance from nearby structures such that significant property damage is not anticipated. Potential project-related impacts will be less than significant.

- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project site is located in an area with clay, sand, gravel and crystalline rocks (Q1/Qa, Qf, Qd). Clay (Q1) is a lacustrine deposit that has low potential collapse in this area. Sand (Qa) and gravel (Qf) are relatively young and are more susceptible to erosion (wind/water) or shaking during earthquake. Quartz diorite (Qd) is a hard crystalline rock, which is highly durable, and its deposits cannot be excavated easily.

Construction of the proposed barrier is expected to result in limited disturbance of surface soils. Nonetheless, the majority of the project area is highly or very highly susceptible to wind erosion. Impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, they should be further analyzed in the EIR.

- c) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation.** The project site extends along the toe of slope of the Santa Rosa Mountains, and it is vulnerable to the effects of slope failure during an earthquake. The Santa Rosa Mountains are mainly composed of Quartz Diorite (crystalline rocks, Qd), a hard rock and durable rock. Barrier construction could destabilize fractured rocky slopes if not properly sited and constructed.

The Coachella Valley Water District and U.S. Geological Survey have documented regional subsidence in the lower Coachella Valley, including the City of La Quinta. Portions of the subsidence area are in close proximity to the project area. The proposed project will not result in the construction of any buildings, structures, or major utility improvements that could sustain significant damage or pose significant human risks associated with settlement, and project-related impacts are expected to be less than significant with the application of appropriate mitigation measures. These issues should be further addressed in the EIR.

- d) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not require connection to the sewer system or construction of a septic system. No impacts associated with soils or wastewater disposal systems will occur.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

7. <b>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</b> -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** SCAQMD AQMP, 2012; Coachella Valley PM<sub>10</sub> SIP, 2003; South Coast Air Quality Management District CEQA Handbook, 1993; La Quinta Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, 2013.

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will generate a very limited amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during construction. Construction related emissions will be generated by construction vehicles and equipment that burns fossil fuels. Impacts will be temporary and will end once construction is complete. No GHGs are expected to be generated over the long-term life of the project, other than those emitted by vehicles during occasional inspections and repairs. Project-related impacts are expected to be less than significant. Nonetheless, they should be further discussed in the EIR.
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The State of California has taken a leading role to curb GHG emissions, and has developed new laws and regulations to reduce these emissions. California SB 375, in part, implements greenhouse gas reduction targets set forth in AB 32. It encourages regional land use planning to reduce vehicle miles traveled and requires jurisdictions to adopt a sustainable communities strategy. The California Air Resources Board is continuing to draft regulations to implement the Scoping Plan. Senate Bill 2X requires that by the year 2020, 33% of the electricity used in California is from renewables, to help reduce GHG emissions in the State. The proposed project is expected to have a less than significant impact from the emission of GHG's and will not conflict with any plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Nonetheless, these issues should be addressed in the EIR.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

8. <b>HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b> -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** City of La Quinta General Plan, 2013; "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas (map)," CALFire, December 24, 2009; Envirostor database, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, accessed October 2015.

- a-b) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not generate a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Neither construction nor routine inspection or repairs of the barrier are anticipated to result in the use or generation of hazardous materials. No impacts will occur.
- c) **No Impact.** The project area is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school, and the project will not generate or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste. No impact will occur.
- d) **No Impact.** The project site is not located on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5; therefore, it would not create a significance hazard to the public or the environment. No impacts are expected.
- e, f) **No impact.** The project site is not located within an airport land use plan and will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. The subject site is approximately 4.5 miles south of the Bermuda Dunes Airport and approximately 6 miles west of the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport. Therefore, no impact is expected.

The project area is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip that would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No impact is expected.

- g) **No Impact.** The proposed project will be built along the toe of slope of the Santa Rosa Mountains on land which is generally inaccessible by public or private roads and not an integral part of an emergency response or evacuation plan. Access to the proposed barrier will only be required during construction and occasional inspections or repairs, and will be taken from adjoining and largely undeveloped lands, including access roads for the existing Coachella Branch Canal and Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area. No adverse impacts will occur.
- h) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation.** The proposed project will be built along the wildland-urban interface between the slopes of the Santa Rosa Mountains and resort residential development on the valley floor. The project will not create habitable structures that would increase wildfire risks to people. However, portions of the mountains upslope of the project site are designated by CalFire as “very high fire hazard severity zones” under state and federal responsibility. In the event of a wildland fire in the Santa Rosa Mountains in the project vicinity, the project could physically restrict access for emergency personnel trying to reach the mountains from the valley floor. This possibility is addressed in Section 14 (Public Services) of this Initial Study and should be further addressed in the EIR.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

9. <b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</b> -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** City of La Quinta General Plan, 2013.

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed barrier route will cross portions of drainages emanating from the Santa Rosa Mountains. Construction activities associated with this project could conceivably generate or discharge contaminants into the adjoining canal or adversely impact water quality. However, the potential for this to occur is considered to be less than significant
- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** Limited quantities of water may be required for dust control measures during the construction phase. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) provides water to the project area, and the primary source of water is groundwater extracted from wells. Although regional groundwater basins have a history of overdraft conditions, in which more water is extracted than is contained in the aquifer, it is anticipated that the water demanded by the proposed project will be minimal and will have a negligible impact on groundwater resources. The project EIR should analyze potential water demand associated with the proposed project.



- c, d) **Less than Significant Impact.** In some locations, the project will cross natural drainages emanating from the mountains. However, the project does not involve the construction of hardscape surfaces or structures that would increase or alter the amount of runoff generated onsite. With thoughtful barrier design, impacts are expected to be less than significant. These issues should be further addressed in the project EIR.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed project does not include buildings, hardscape surfaces, or other improvements that will create or contribute additional runoff. No impact to existing or planned stormwater drainage systems is anticipated.
- f) **No Impact.** As described in 9.a, above, the project will not generate any runoff or otherwise degrade water quality.
- g) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not result in the development of housing either within or outside a 100-year flood plain.
- h) **Less than Significant Impact.** A portion of the project area between Lake Cahuilla and The Quarry is part of Dike No. 2, which was constructed to protect agricultural and developed areas from mountain runoff. It is designated as a 100-year floodplain in the General Plan. The proposed barrier may cross portions of this area; however, it is not expected to impede or redirect flows. Potential impacts should be further analyzed in the EIR.
- i-j) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed barrier route is in close proximity to the Coachella Branch Canal and Lake Cahuilla, which hold significant volumes of water. Additionally, two CVWD water reservoirs are upslope of the proposed route, northwest of Lake Cahuilla. These structures could be susceptible to seismically induced seiche, an occasional or sudden oscillation in a body of water, during a strong earthquake. Construction workers, inspectors, and repairmen could be exposed temporarily to hazards associated with such an event; however, risks are considered less than significant. The subject property is not susceptible to tsunami given its inland location.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

10. <b>LAND USE AND PLANNING</b> - Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** La Quinta General Plan 2013; La Quinta Official Zoning Map; Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, 2008; "Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2000.

a) **No Impact.** The project will create a barrier that restricts PBS access to the valley floor. It will be located on the toe of slope along the urban-mountain interface, above which is undeveloped open space and below which is primarily golf course and resort residential development. It will not physically divide an established community, and no impact will occur.

b) **Less than Significant Impact.**

La Quinta General Plan

General Plan designations in the project area include:

- 1) *Open Space – Natural* in the Santa Rosa Mountains, Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area, and Coachella Canal;
- 2) *Low-Density Residential* (up to 4 dwelling units/acre) in the residential portions of Tradition, PGA West, and The Quarry;
- 3) *Open Space – Recreation* in the golf course portions of Tradition, Silver Rock, PGA West, and The Quarry; and,
- 4) *Tourist Commercial* in the west-central portion of SilverRock.

The project is consistent with the following General Plan goals, policies, and programs:

- 1) *Goal BIO-1* – The protection and preservation of native and environmentally significant biological resources and their habitats.
- 2) *Policy BIO-1.1* – Continue to implement the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).
- 3) *Policy BIO-1.7* – Sensitive habitat areas, including conservation areas for the MSHCP, should be buffered from urban development to the greatest extent possible.
- 4) *Goal OS-1* – Preservation, conservation and management of the City's open space lands and resources for enhanced recreational, environmental and economic purposes.
- 5) *Goal OS-2* – Good stewardship of natural open space and preservation of open space areas.
- 6) *Program OS-2.1.a* – Continue to implement the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

La Quinta Zoning Ordinance

Zoning designations in the project area include:

- 1) *Open Space* in the Santa Rosa Mountains;
- 2) *Low Density Residential* in the residential portions of Tradition, PGA West, and The Quarry;

- 3) *Golf Course* in the golf course portions of Tradition, SilverRock, PGA West, and The Quarry;
- 4) *Tourist Commercial* in the west-central portion of SilverRock;
- 5) *Parks and Recreation* in Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area; and
- 6) *Flood Plain* in the Coachella Canal and Lake Cahuilla.

The proposed project will be located along the urban-mountain interface. It will create a barrier between natural open spaces and developed urban lands for the purpose of better preserving the habitat of and minimizing hazards to Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. The project is consistent with the above-referenced General Plan goals, policies, and programs, and will continue to implement the CV MSHCP and buffer sensitive habitat areas from urban development. It will be built in the least disruptive manner possible, will not alter existing or planned land uses, and will not significantly alter existing natural features or land forms. Project-related impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, they be further evaluated in the EIR.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The proposed project is within the coverage area of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), a comprehensive regional plan encompassing a planning area of approximately 1.1 million acres and conserving approximately 240,000 acres of open space. The Plan is intended to address the conservation needs of a variety of plant and animal species and natural vegetation communities that occur in the Coachella Valley region, including the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. The CVMSHCP was finalized in October 2008 and establishes a system of preserves outside of urbanized areas in the valley to protect lands with high conservation value.

The proposed project is consistent with CVMSHCP goals, objectives, and the Mitigation and Monitoring Program for PBS. The project site is adjacent to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area and, therefore, will be subject to the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines provided in the CVMSHCP. The project is consistent with Land Use Adjacency Guideline 4.5.6, which recommends that land uses adjacent to or within a Conservation Area incorporate barriers, which can include fencing, to minimize the edge effects of development on the Conservation Area.

Recovery Plan for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep

The Recovery Plan for the PBS was approved in 2000 by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service for the purpose of “securing and managing habitat in order to alleviate threats” to the species. The proposed project is consistent with the Plan’s Recommended Conservation Guidelines, which include construction of an 8-foot high chain-link fence that separates bighorn sheep from urbanized areas (p. 218).

Summary of Impacts

The project will implement the species conservation guidelines pertaining to construction of a PBS barrier, as recommended in the CVMSHCP and Recovery Plan, and consistent with City of La Quinta General Plan policies. The project is not expected to adversely affect designated critical habitat for the PBS. The project will be required to comply with the Land Use Adjacency Guidelines set forth in the CVMSHCP, which will assure potential project-related impacts are less than significant. These issues should be further evaluated in the Program EIR.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

<b>11. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** La Quinta General Plan, 2013; "Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region", prepared by California Department of Conservation-Division of Mines and Geology, 1988; Soils Survey of Riverside County, California, Coachella Valley Area," U.S. Soil Conservation Survey, September, 1980.

- a, b) **No Impact.** The subject property is located on Quartz Diorite (Qd), alluvial sand and clay (Ql/Qa), and alluvial fan sand and gravel (Qf). The project area straddles land designated as MRZ-1 and MRZ-3 by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. The MRZ-1 designation applies to land at the base of the mountains and on the valley floor where "adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood for their presence exists." The MRZ-3 zone applies to the Santa Rosa Mountains and designates "areas containing known or inferred mineral occurrences of undetermined mineral resources significance." Land in the southerly portion of the project area once operated as a quarry and was designated MRZ-2, "areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists." However, operations at the quarry ceased many years ago, and the land has been developed into a resort residential development called "The Quarry."

The proposed project will not result in any impacts to a known mineral resource or locally important mineral resource recovery site. No mineral recovery operations occur onsite or in the immediate project area.

**Mitigation Measures:**

None required

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

None required

12. NOISE -- Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** La Quinta General Plan 2013; Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, Volume 1 Policy Document, October 14, 2004.

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project is not expected to generate noise in excess of established standards. During the construction phase, noise will be generated by construction vehicles and equipment accessing the site and clearing vegetation and installing the barrier. However, construction noise impacts will be short-term, will occur during the least sensitive times of the day, and will end once the project is complete. The project will occur in phases, which will limit the extent to which noise affects a particular area. The project area is adjacent to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area established by the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and, therefore, will be required to comply with applicable Land Use Adjacent Guidelines pertaining to noise. After construction, no noise impacts are anticipated, except those associated with occasional barrier repairs. Potential impacts should be further addressed in the EIR.
- b) **No Impact.** The proposed project is not expected to require blasting of bedrock or other activities that would generate excessive ground vibration or noise. No impacts are anticipated.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Over the long-term life of the project, routine monitoring and occasional maintenance activities could result in minimal and temporary noise increases at limited locations. No other permanent long-term noise will be generated.
- d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project has the potential to generate short-term construction-related noise impacts that will exceed existing ambient noise levels. However, impacts will be temporary and are not expected to be significant. The project EIR should analyze the extent to which they could adversely impact the noise environment.

- e,f) **No Impact.** The subject site is approximately 4.5 miles south of the Bermuda Dunes Airport and approximately 6 miles west of the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport. It is not located within the airport land use plan or noise compatibility contours of either airport. No land use incompatibilities with the current or long-term operations of the airports are expected. The project is not located within 2 miles of a private airstrip.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

13. <b>POPULATION AND HOUSING</b> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** La Quinta General Plan 2013.

- a-c) **No Impact.** The project area is in close proximity to several residential and resort residential developments, including Tradition, SilverRock, PGA West, and The Quarry. However, it will not displace any existing housing or people, or require the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The project will not result in the construction of new housing, public roads, or infrastructure and, therefore, will not directly or indirectly induce population growth. No impacts will occur.

**Mitigation Measures:**

None required

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

None required



14. PUBLIC SERVICES –	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** City of La Quinta General Plan, 2013; “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas (map), CALFire, December 24, 2009.

a) **Fire Protection- Less Than Significant With Mitigation**

The City of La Quinta contracts with the County of Riverside Fire Department for fire protection services. The nearest fire stations to the project area include:

- Station No. 32 (in the vicinity of Tradition)  
78111 Avenue 52
- Station No. 70 (PGA West)  
54001 Madison Street
- Station No. 93 (North La Quinta)  
44555 Adams Street

The Fire Department operates four additional stations in surrounding communities that are available for emergency response. The Department’s first-in-response times range from two to six minutes, and it has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) public protection class rating of four (on a scale of 1 through 10, with 10 being the highest) based on the provision of staffing, communication, water system for suppression, building standards, and other criteria.

The proposed project will not generate new buildings or other improvements that will increase the need for fire protection services. However, the proposed project will create a barrier along the wildland-urban interface between the slopes of the Santa Rosa Mountains and valley floor. Portions of the Santa Rosa Mountains upslope of the project site are designated by CalFire as “very high fire hazard severity zones” under state and federal responsibility. The project could restrict or prevent emergency access to the mountains in the event of a wildfire. Potential project-related impacts and appropriate mitigation measures should be further analyzed in the EIR.

**Police Protection- No Impact**

The City of La Quinta contracts with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for the provision of police protection services. The proposed project will not generate new buildings or other improvements that will increase the demand for police protection or require the construction of new police facilities. No significant project-related impacts are anticipated.

**Schools- No Impact**

The proposed project will not generate additional student population or affect the quality of education services provided in the project area. It will not result in physical impacts to school buildings or facilities. No impact is expected.

**Parks- Less than Significant With Mitigation**

The proposed project will not attract additional residents to the project area or cause other changes that could increase the use of existing parks. However, the barrier route is immediately adjacent to the Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area, and the project could affect access to the Cove to Lake Trail and Boo Hoff Trail that extend through the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Potential impacts and mitigation measures, if necessary, should be further analyzed in the EIR.

**Other Public Facilities – No Impact**

The proposed project is not expected to adversely impact other public facilities.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Programs:**

See forthcoming EIR.

15. RECREATION –	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Sources:** La Quinta General Plan, 2013; 2015 Trail Map, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, Bureau of Land Management.

- a, b) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation.** The proposed project will not attract additional residents or visitors to the area, or result in other changes that will increase the use of existing parks and recreational facilities. However, if the project area is immediately adjacent to several recreational facilities, including Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area and several golf courses (Tradition, SilverRock, PGA West, and The Quarry). While the project is not expected to directly affect usage or access to these facilities, it could potentially cause visual and/or other indirect impacts.

The project extends along a boundary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, which contains numerous hiking trails. The project could impact access to the trailheads of the Cove to Lake Trail and Boo Hoff Trail near the Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area. Mitigation may be required to assure adequate public access is maintained. Potential adverse impacts and mitigation measures should be analyzed in the Project EIR.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

#### **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting:**

See forthcoming EIR.

16. <b>TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</b> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** City of La Quinta General Plan 2013; 2011 Riverside County Congestion Management Program, Riverside County Transportation Commission, December 14, 2011; Final Coachella Valley Association of Governments Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update, September 2010.

- a) **Less than Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project will result in limited traffic increases in the project area. Vehicles accessing the site may include supply trucks, workers' personal vehicles, and construction equipment. However, traffic volumes are not expected to be substantial, and no project-related traffic delays or detours are anticipated. Access to the barrier route will be taken from adjoining and largely developed lands, including access roads for the existing Coachella Branch Canal and Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area. Exact points of access will be determined through further analysis and discussions with affected property owners and responsible agencies. .

Coordination with the City of La Quinta will ensure that local traffic impacts remain minimal during construction activities. Once all construction activities are complete, traffic patterns will return to their pre-construction conditions and will not generate any significant impacts related to transportation or traffic within the project vicinity. Post-construction traffic will be limited to that needed to complete occasional barrier inspections and repairs. Potential impacts should be evaluated in the EIR.

- b) **No Impact.** None of the roads in the project vicinity are designated in the Riverside County Congestion Management Program or any other congestion management program. No impacts will occur.
- c) **No Impact.** The project area is located approximately 4.5 miles south of the Bermuda Dunes Airport and approximately 6 miles west of the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport. It is not located within the boundaries of an airport land use compatibility plan and will not affect any air traffic routes or operations. It will not increase air safety hazards, such as obstructions to navigation or land use incompatibility. No impacts will occur.

- d) **No Impact.** The proposed barrier will not result in the modification of any roadways. The project will also not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.
- e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will be required to assure adequate emergency access is maintained during construction and operation. Construction traffic plans will be coordinated with and approved by the City of La Quinta. This should be further analyzed in the EIR.
- f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will not result in the need for permanent parking facilities or structures. Temporary parking will be needed for construction vehicles, and may be located on existing roads. The project proponent will be required to coordinate this with the City prior to project approval. Impacts are expected to be less than significant, but they should be further addressed in the EIR.
- g) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not interfere with policies or programs pertaining to alternative transportation, including the CVAG Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The project area is not located along a mass transit bus route and does not contain bus stops or turnouts. Most access points are located within planned resort residential developments. There will be no conflict with applicable transit plans or policies.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

17. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the projects projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Source:** City of La Quinta General Plan, 2013.

- a, b) **No Impact.** The proposed project will not generate any wastewater flows or adversely impact water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. It will not require any construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. No impacts will occur.
- c) **No Impact.** The project does not propose any hardscape features, buildings, or other structures that would increase stormwater flows. No new or expanded off-site stormwater management facilities will be required to serve the project.
- d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) provides water to the planning area. Minimal quantities of water may be required for dust control purposes during construction of the proposed barrier. After construction is complete, no additional water will be demanded. Impacts are expected to be less than significant; however, they should be further addressed in the EIR.
- e) **No Impact.** The project will not generate any wastewater and, therefore, will have no impact on wastewater treatment services or facilities. No impacts will occur.
- f, g) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project may generate minimal solid waste during construction, but quantities are expected to be negligible. Solid waste is disposed of at the Edom Hill Transfer Station in northern Cathedral City, then transported to regional landfills, all of which have available capacity.



Facility operators are required to comply with applicable statutes. After construction, no solid waste will be generated, and no solid waste collection or disposal services will be required. These issues will be further addressed in the EIR.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

18. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a) **Less than Significant With Mitigation.** As discussed in Section 4 (Biological Resources), the project is intended to safely exclude Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (PBS) from nearby urban development, and no significant adverse impacts to PBS or other species are anticipated. However, the project must be thoughtfully designed, constructed, and maintained to assure risks of injury and/or death for PBS and other species are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

As discussed in Section 5 (Cultural Resources), numerous archaeological resources associated with the Cahuilla have been identified and documented in the project area, and the Cahuilla are known to have inhabited the Santa Rosa foothills and land near ancient Lake Cahuilla, both of which are in the immediate project area. The project area is also close to the original concrete-lined section of the Coachella Branch Canal, which has been identified as a historic resource. Given that the project will not require extensive ground surface disturbances, it is not expected to significantly impact cultural resources. Nonetheless, the EIR should fully evaluate the extent to which the project may impact cultural resources and establish mitigation measures to assure they are not significantly impacted.

- b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project consists of a barrier along the urban-mountain interface for the purpose of protecting a sensitive biological species. It does not involve the construction of habitable buildings or major infrastructure improvements that will attract additional population or consume non-renewable resources. It will not significantly alter existing terrain or remove or degrade existing biological habitat. Cumulative impacts will be less than significant.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact.** During construction, the project could result in temporary noise intrusions where the barrier is in close proximity to residences and golf course facilities. The project could restrict access for emergency personnel in the event of a wildland fire in the Santa Rosa Mountains, although thoughtful design and inclusion of appropriate mitigation measures are expected to minimize impacts to acceptable levels. Potential impacts should be further analyzed in the project EIR.

**Mitigation Measures:**

See forthcoming EIR.

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:**

See forthcoming EIR.

## **LIST OF EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1: Regional Location Map  
Exhibit 2: Project Vicinity Map  
Exhibit 3: Project Area Map

## **REFERENCES**

2035 City of La Quinta General Plan, amended and adopted February 19, 2013

Riverside County Important Farmland 2010 map, California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, 2012

Air Quality Management Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District, 2012

Coachella Valley PM<sub>10</sub> State Implementation Plan (SIP), 2003

South Coast Air Quality Management District CEQA Handbook, 1993

Biological Survey Report for the Coachella Canal Relocation - SilverRock Country Club, Coachella Valley Water District, 2013

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan, 2008

Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2000

Biological Survey Report, Coachella Canal Relocation, SilverRock Country Club, La Quinta, California, Coachella Valley Water District, October 2013

Class III Cultural Resources Assessment for the Canal Water Conveyance System Relocation Project, Riverside County, California, Applied EarthWorks, Inc., September 2013

A Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation of 'The Ranch' Project Area Located in the Community of La Quinta, California, McKenna et. al., September 12, 1999

City of La Quinta Engineering Bulletin #09-03, June 18, 2010

La Quinta Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, 2013

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas (map), CALFire, December 24, 2009

Envirostor database, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, accessed October 2015

City of La Quinta Official Zoning Map

Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region, prepared by California Department of Conservation-Division of Mines and Geology, 1988

Soils Survey of Riverside County, California, Coachella Valley Area, U.S. Soil Conservation Survey, September, 1980

Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, Volume 1 Policy Document, October 14, 2004

2015 Trail Map, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, Bureau of Land Management

2011 Riverside County Congestion Management Program, Riverside County Transportation Commission, December 14, 2011

Final Coachella Valley Association of Governments Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update, Ryan Snyder Associates, LLC, September 2010