



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW  
NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
OF AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
BY THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
FOR THE  
LA QUINTA PENINSULAR BIGHORN SHEEP BARRIER PROJECT**

**LEAD AGENCY:** Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
73710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200  
Palm Desert, California 92260  
Phone: (760) 346-1127

**CONTACT PERSON:** Katie Barrows, [kbarrows@cvag.org](mailto:kbarrows@cvag.org)  
Phone: (760) 346-1127

**PROJECT TITLE:** La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Barrier Project

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Vicinity of Lake Cahuilla and extending north, west and south along the Santa Rosa Mountain foothills, City of La Quinta, Riverside County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) proposes the construction of a Peninsular bighorn sheep barrier (9.5± mile linear barrier) in the City of La Quinta, along the toe of slope of the Santa Rosa Mountain foothills and within portions of Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 20 & 29, Township 6 South, Range 7 East, SBB&M in the Coachella Valley area of Riverside County. The purpose of the project is to address the urban-related impacts of Peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) using artificial sources of food and water in urbanized lands, including golf course and resort residential areas. The species is listed “Endangered” under the Federal Endangered Species Act and as “Threatened” under the California Endangered Species Act. A variety of barrier and wildlife management alternatives are being considered to prevent Peninsular bighorn sheep from accessing golf courses and urban areas and will be evaluated in the Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

**FINDINGS/DETERMINATION:** The CVCC has reviewed and considered the proposed project and has determined that potentially significant impacts could result. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared. The USBR is also preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments made at the March 10, 2016 Public Scoping Meeting and in response to the CEQA NOP will also inform the USBR and their review process.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** Pursuant to §15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, this is to notify all interested parties that the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) has submitted a Notice of Preparation/Initial Study Checklist to the State Clearinghouse of their intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for this project. A 30-day public review period for the Notice of Preparation will commence at 8:00 a.m. on February 25, 2016 and end on March 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the Notice of Preparation must be received at the CVCC within the public review period. You may email comments to the following address: [kbarrows@cvag.org](mailto:kbarrows@cvag.org).

**AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS:** Copies of the Notice of Preparation, including the CEQA Initial Study, are available for review and download on the Coachella Valley MSHCP website at [www.cvmshcp.org](http://www.cvmshcp.org), at CVCC offices at the above address between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and at the City of La Quinta Public Library, 78275 Calle Tampico, La Quinta, CA 92253. Please call (760) 346-1127 for further information.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:** The public scoping meeting for this project will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the La Quinta City Hall, City Council Chambers, 78495 Calle Tampico, La Quinta, CA 92253.