

# RINCON BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS

## Cultural Resources Department

One Government Center Lane · Valley Center, California 92082 ·  
(760) 297-2635 Fax:(760) 692-1498



October 9, 2019

Damaris Abraham, Senior Planner  
Community Development Department  
City of Lake Elsinore  
130 South Main Street  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

**Re: Kassab Travel Center Project; Planning Application No. 2016-112, Municipal Code Amendment No. 2017-02, Conditional Use Permit No. 2018-03, Commercial Design Review No. 2016-17**

Dear Ms. Abraham,

This letter is written on behalf of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. Thank you for providing us with the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the above referenced project. The identified location is within the Territory of the Luiseño people, and is also within Rincon's specific area of Historic interest.

The City of Lake Elsinore is considered a Traditional Cultural Place (TCP) and Landscape (TCL) by the Rincon Band, as it is associated with the Luiseño Creation Story and traditional practices. Fifteen cultural resources have been previously identified within a one-mile radius to the project site. Due to the significance of the area, Rincon is concerned for cultural findings including the possibility of human remains and associated artifacts.

We have reviewed the provided MND and we are in agreement with the following recommendation under Section V Cultural Resources which states:

“An adequate number of qualified monitors shall be present to ensure that all earth-moving activities are observed and shall be on-site during all grading activities for areas to be monitored including off-site improvements”.

However, Rincon recommends that Luiseño Tribal Monitoring also be included in MM-CUL-2 for ground disturbances that extends beyond previously disturbed depths, and not only upon cultural resource discoveries and determination of potential significance, as the MND implies. Having a Luiseño Tribal Monitor would not only save time upon discovery of cultural resources, but the determination of potential significance would be made in consultation with the Luiseño tribal monitor who has knowledge pertaining to the cultural significance of Luiseño cultural material.

We do request that a copy of the Phase IV Monitoring Report be provided to the Rincon Band upon completion.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office at your convenience at (760) 297-2635.

Bo Mazzetti  
Tribal Chairman

Tishmall Turner  
Vice Chairwoman

Steve Stallings  
Council Member

Laurie E. Gonzalez  
Council Member

Alfonso Kolb  
Council Member

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Thank you for the opportunity to protect and preserve our cultural assets.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Madrigal  
Cultural Resources Manager  
Rincon Cultural Resources Department

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Tribal Chairman

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