

Appendix E

Cultural Resources:
2021 SHPO Consultation Letter



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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August 25, 2021

VIA EMAIL

In reply refer to: COE_2021_0415_001

Ms. Sallie Diebolt
Chief, Arizona Branch
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5900 La Place Court, Suite 100
Carlsbad, California 92008

RE: Coachella Valley Water District's Thousand Palms Flood Control Project SPL-2014-00238

Dear Ms. Diebolt,

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received your consultation letters dated April 14, 2021, and July 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 300101), as amended, and its implementing regulation, 36 CFR § 800. The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) consults on its proposal to permit (undertaking) Coachella Valley Water District to implement the Thousand Palms Flood Control Project (Project). The Project consists of constructing levees, flood control channels, and other stormwater management features in four different areas or reaches to reduce risk to flood prone properties in the area. Reaches include levees that vary from 0.32-miles to 2.4-miles in length with underground levee "toes" extending to a depth of approximately 15-feet. A 2.1-acre sediment basin would be installed at the east end of reach 1 and a stormwater conveyance system will be constructed to direct stormwater flows under Washington Street that is estimated to disturb up to 5-acres. Existing roads would be utilized for access during construction.

Currently the Corps is seeking SHPO comments on its delineation of the project Area of Potential Effects (APE), efforts to identify historic properties within the APE, and its finding that no historic properties will be adversely affected as a result of this undertaking.

The APE has been defined as the entire project area and includes areas for staging, laydown, and access, it is depicted in Figure 1 of the April 14, 2021, letter. Efforts to identify historic properties included Tribal consultation, background literature and records review, and pedestrian survey of the APE. One cultural resource, CA-RIV-11851 (P-33-024101) is present within the APE, it consists of historical features

including refuse deposits dating to 1953 and stone-and-mortar footings. The Corps determined that CA-RIV-11851 is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and seeks SHPO concurrence. According to the archaeological consultants, the potential to encounter intact archaeological deposits is considered low given the lack of resources identified during numerous prior surveys, previous disturbances such as farming, grading, and the introduction of fill soils.

Responses received during Tribal consultation included requests for monitoring during ground disturbing construction activities, which has been agreed to by the Corps.

The following documents were provided in support of these findings:

- *Supplemental Cultural Resource Assessment for the Whitewater River Basin Flood Control Project (Reaches 1-4), Unincorporated Riverside County, California* (Applied Earthworks, March 2015)
- *Thousand Palms Flood Control Project: Cultural Resources Additional Information* (Aspen Environmental Group, June 27, 2021)
- *Thousand Palms Flood Control Project Addendum to the Supplemental Cultural Resource Assessment Report Pedestrian Archaeological Survey of Expanded Reach 4* (Aspen Environmental Group, June 2021)

Following review of the supporting documentation, I offer the following comments:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(1), **I do not object** to the APE as defined;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1), I find the efforts to identify historic properties within the APE to be reasonable and in good faith;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1), **I concur** that CA-RIV-11851 (P-33-024101) is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1), **I do not object** to a finding of no historic properties affected.
- Please consider that in the event of a project redesign or post-review discovery, the Corps might have additional responsibilities pursuant to 36 CFR 800.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Associate State Archaeologist Brendon Greenaway at Brendon.Greenaway@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer