



50567B Quailbush Rd. Johnson Valley, CA 92285 www.hvccsite.org

AGENDA: April 18th, 2022 MEETING

3:00 p.m. at Yucca Mesa Community Center, 3133 Balsa Ave.

All HVCC agendas, contact information and minutes are posted on www.hvccsite.org

Flag Salute Roll Call/Delegate List Approve Agenda
Approve Minutes of January, February, and March Meetings
Treasurer's Report: Floy Creveling

- 1. Guest Comments** on items not on the agenda
- 2. 29 Palms MCAGCC** - Community Liaison Kimberly Pope
- 3. San Bernardino County Fire Dept** - Chief Scott Tuttle
- 4. San Bernardino County Sheriffs Dept** - Cpt. Lucas Niles
- 5. SB County 3rd District** - Supervisor Dawn Rowe
- 6. State Assembly 33rd District** - Representative Miriam Munoz
- 7. State Senator Shannon Grove** - Representative Dominic Heiden
- 8. Congressman Jay Obernolte** - Representative Hayden Bartz
- 9. You are Not Alone (YANA) Presentation** - Candy Lopez
- 10. Measure Z: Repeal FP-5 Fire Tax** - Tom Murphy, Red Brennan Group
- 11. Flamingo Heights Resort "Glamping" Proposal HVCC Comments and Action Packet**
- 12. HVCC 2022/23 Officers Nominating Committee**
- 13. Committees:**
 1. *Standing:* Public Outreach (Betty Munson)
 2. *Ad Hoc:* Scenic Highway 247 (Betty Munson)
- 14. President's Report**
- 15. Community Reports – Announcements**

Next HVCC meeting: Monday, May 16th, 3:00 pm Landers Belfield Hall, 58380 Reche Rd.

HVCC DELEGATES / COMMITTEE LIST

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members appointed by the 4 HVCC Organizations, residing in the community they represent.
Up to 3 voting members from each community, plus alternate to vote in case of an absence.

Kim Abramson	JVIA alternate
Adrienne Bishop	Landers
Digna Cassens	Flamingo Heights
Floy Creveling	Landers
Jim Hanley	JVIA
Jim Harvey	JVIA
Judy Laffoon	Landers Alternate
Betty Munson	JVIA
Chris Nichols	YMIA
Rick Sayers	YMIA
Roxanna Shamay	Landers

OFFICERS

President: Jim Harvey
Vice President: Rick Sayers
Secretary: Betty Munson
Treasurer: Floy Creveling

STANDING COMMITTEE

Community Outreach: Chairperson: Betty Munson
Jim Hanley, Rick Sayers

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Scenic 247 Committee: Chairperson: Betty Munson
Phillip Brown, Barbara Harris, Jim Harvey, Sarah Kennington, Sara Fairchild, Chuck Bell

Committee members are not required to be members of the Council



January 17, 2022 Minutes
3:00 p.m. at Landers Belfield Hall
58380 Reche Rd.

- Flag Salute
- Kim Abramson did the Roll Call - Betty Munson and Toby Gramm absent.
- Jim Hanley makes a motion to adopt the Agenda. Floy Creveling seconds. 8 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
- Roxanna Shamay makes a motion to approve the November and December Minutes. Adrienne Bishop seconds. 8 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report given by Floy Creveling. Beginning balance \$13,380.84. Ending balance \$12,394.92. Chris Nichols makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rick Sayers seconds. 8 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed. (See attached).

1. Guest Comments – none.

2. 29 Palms MCAGCC – none.

3. SB County Fire Dept – Dan Munsey speaks. Giving praise to Mike McClintock.

4. Cal Fire – There were 42 calls this month. To have a fire, one must be 18 years of age or older. It can be a 2 x 3 camp fire permitted/changed to non permit. The wind have to be less than 10 miles per hour. There were 10 fire calls in HVCC district. Chad Mayes got a \$11-12 million dollar grant for a new fire station in Yucca Valley.

5. State Assemblyman Thurston "Smitty" Smith – Jim Harvey reads field representative Dillon Levosky's written report.

6. State Senator Shannon Grove - Jim Harvey reads field representative Dominic Heiden's written report.

7. SB County 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe – Dawn Rowe says: 1. **Illegal dumping** is a priority for my office. With the help of both County Code Enforcement and the inmate team and Burrtec, over 2 tons in Wonder Valley and 3.3 tons in Yucca Valley were recently cleaned up. 2. **Renewable Energy Project** Brought to my attention that there may be a large, significant wind energy project coming to Johnson Valley on either state or BLM land. Supposedly, it may be sited in a Development Focus Area under the DRECP. I am trying to find out more and will

report back. 3. **Vacation Rental Ordinance Update: County to Amend Short Term Rental Ordinance** The County of San Bernardino is set to amend the current Short Term Rental (STR) program. The Planning Commission is tentatively set to consider the amendments on February 3, 2022. We encourage you to present your thoughts and recommendations to the County for their consideration.

8. San Bernardino County Illegal Cannabis Farm Abatement Ordinance Update – Cannabis Abatement Ordinance This is the best two ways to notify the sheriff's department are by calling Sheriff's Gangs/Narcotics Division or email. Jim Harvey starts the Operation Hammer Strike Community Briefing Video dated December 21, 2021 <https://youtube.com/watch?v=TiRNOHqu21>

9. Redistricting Finished. Now what? - Redistricting New square miles in my district: just under 10,000 square miles. My old district was 3,797 square miles, new one is 9,616 square miles.

10. Committees:

1. *Standing*: Public Outreach (Betty Munson)
2. *Ad Hoc*: Scenic Highway 247 (Betty Munson)

11. President's Report

12. Community Reports List – Announcements – Kim Abramson says Johnson Valley Improvement Association will be having its Baked Potato dinner on February 5, 2022 at 5 pm for \$5 per person. Breakfast is from 7 am to 10 am every Saturday morning. Friday is Pinochle Club from 12pm to 4 pm. Floy Creveling says the 2nd Saturday is the craft faire at the Landers Association. Rick Sayers says Yucca Mesa Improvement Association is still here. Building can be rented for weddings, bar/bat mitzvah's, baby showers, etc. Digna Cassens says Jason Hanson is looking into another grant for Flamingo Heights Community Association. The building is still not open.

13. Review Action Items From This Meeting Jim Harvey says he will be working with Dan Munsey and the Red Brennan Group.

Next HVCC meeting: Monday, February 21 , 2022 at 3:00 pm

Johnson Valley Improvement Association, 50567 A Quailbush Rd. Johnson Valley

Adjourn



February 21, 2022 Minutes
3:00 p.m. at Johnson Valley Improvement Association
50567A Quailbush Rd.

- Flag Salute
- Kim Abramson did the Roll Call - Adrienne Bishop, Digna Cassens, Toby Gramm, Jim Hanley and Betty Munson absent. Jim Harvey removes Toby Grahmm as a HVCC council member.
- Chris Nichols makes a motion to adopt the Agenda. Rick Sayers seconds. 6 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
- Kim Abramson will amend the January Minutes. Chris Nichols seconds. 6 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report given by Floy Creveling. Beginning balance \$12,394.92. Ending balance \$12,368.22. Roxanna Shamay makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rick Sayers seconds. 6 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed. (See attached).

1. Guest Comments – Justin Merino introduces himself and thanks Floy Creveling for joining the Disaster Action Team for the American Red Cross. They have gone out on 6 calls so far. Justin says the American Red Cross will be holding the "Sound the Alarm" event in Yucca Valley on March 19, 2022. Justin says they have partnered with SB CoFD and Morongo Valley FD to see installations of smoke alarms by county firefighters. This March 23, 2022 at 6 pm, they will hold a Community Volunteer meeting to kick off their partnerships with HELP as well welcome the general public to learn about what opportunities exist in the Basin. This event will be held at Yucca Mesa Community Center.

2. 29 Palms MCAGCC – none.

3. SB County Fire Dept – Chief Evan speaks. He says for the month of January ME42 ran: 6 traffic collisions, 33 medical aids, 3 fires - one structure and two fire type unknowns, 1 law enforcement assist and 4 move ups. For the month of January MA42 ran: 40 medical aids, 5 inter facility transfers - desert oasis healthcare, HDMC and 5 move ups. Chief Evan said they are pleased to announce they have 3 new probationary firefighters in the basin. As well as 2 newly promoted Captains. In addition you help us keep you safe by registering your phone numbers in the telephone emergency notification system (TENS) to receive messages by phone and text. On March 12, 2022 from 9am - 2 pm at the AutoZone in Yucca Valley there is a free used oil filter exchange event. Always a good time to use the good weather to maintain your properties for wildland season that will be here before we know it. If you have any questions you can always contact our department and utilize our residential assessment program where a fire engine crew will visit your property and offer advise.

4. Cal Fire – Jim Harvey reads Battalion Travis Lemm's email. (See attached).

5. SB County Sheriffs Dept - Captain Niles introduces Brandon Wiebeld. Captain Niles reads the Operation Hammer Strike Past Week Stats: 16 Total Search Warrants, 43 Suspects Arrested, 46,577 Cannabis Plants Seized, 2,703 pounds Processed Marijuana, 9 Firearms Seized, \$6,000.00 Estimated Cash Seized, 119 Greenhouse Eradications and Total Wholesale Product Value of Cannabis Seized This Operation = \$28,590,650.00. This is a low ball wholesale value. Captain Niles reads the Operation Hammer Strike Year-to-Date Stats: 549 Total Search Warrants, 654 Suspects Arrested, 618,850 Cannabis Plants Seized, 105,543 pounds Processed Marijuana, 8 grams Methamphetamine, 191 Firearms Seized, \$2,060,049.00 Estimated Cash Seized, 3,989 Greenhouse Eradications, 12 Mitigated Electrical Bypass (Severe Fire Hazard), 13 THC Extraction Lab, Total Wholesale Product Value of Cannabis Seized This Operation = \$446,541,420.00. This is a low ball wholesale value.

5. State Assemblyman Thurston “Smitty” Smith – Jim Harvey reads field representative Dillon Levosky's written report. (See attached).

6. SB County 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe – Representative Steve Reyes says Code Enforcement conducted their first abatement operation in Lucerne Valley on February 16, 2022. There are four additional properties which "self abated". Meaning the owners removed their own trash and debris. Code Enforcement Recap Specific to illegal marijuana grows: Total Open Cases: 801, Notice of Violations Completed: 583 and Citation Amount Total: \$560,300.

7. Assemblyman Thurston Smith - Representative Dillon Lesovsky reads the Assemblyman's 2022 Bill Package: AB 1874, AB 2105, AB 2333, AB 1725 and Sacramento Update: AB 1993 (Oppose), AB 1599 (Support). (See attached).

8. State Senator Shannon Grove - Field Representative Dominic Heiden says SB 245 (Gonzalez) would shift copays for abortion from women to insurance companies and providers, SB 866 (Wiener) would allow children ages 12-17 to receive the COVID-19 vaccine without parental consent, SB 871 (Pan) would add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of mandatory school vaccines, SB 1073 (Grove) would create a property tax exemption for veterans proportional to their level of disability. Currently only 100% disabled veterans are eligible. SB 1195 (Grove) would move towards allowing the VA to take advantage of underutilized space in CalVET facilities to increase medical services for veterans.

9. EDF Renewables, Possible windmills in Johnson Valley? - Jim Harvey reads Jeffrey Childer's email dated February 17, 2002. (See attached).

10. Discuss Changing the HVCC Third Monday Meeting Cycle - Jim Harvey discusses changing the day of the HVCC meeting. We decided to leave it the same.

11. Committees:

1. *Standing*: Public Outreach
2. *Ad Hoc*: Scenic Highway 247

Jim Harvey will get with Karen Watkins of SB County Land Use Services regarding Scenic Hwy project.

12. President's Report - Chris Nichols makes a motion to approve expenditures not to exceed \$250. Rick Sayers seconds. 6 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

13. Community Reports List – Announcements – Kim Abramson says Johnson Valley Improvement Association will be having its Lasagna dinner on March 5, 2022 at 5 pm for \$8 per person. Breakfast is from 7 am to 10 am every Saturday morning. Friday is Pinochle Club from 12pm to 4 pm. Floy Creveling says the 2nd Saturday is the craft faire at the Landers Association. The Adopt a Highway is the 3rd Saturday at Mile Marker 10-12. Quilting Club is the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. Rick Sayers says Yucca Mesa Improvement Association is still renting out their building for weddings, bar/bat mitzvah's, baby showers, etc. Mesa Fest is September 24, 2022. YMIA got a \$5,000 donation. Wednesday at 6 pm is a Red Cross and HELP meeting.

14. Review Action Items From This Meeting

Next HVCC meeting: Monday, March 21, 2022 at 3:00 pm

Landers Belfield Hall, 58380 Reche Rd. Landers

Adjourn



March 21, 2022 Minutes
3:00 p.m. at Belfield Hall in Landers
58380 Reche Rd.

- Flag Salute
- Kim Abramson did the Roll Call - Digna Cassens, Betty Munson and Chris Nichols absent.
- Roxanna Shamay makes a motion to adopt the Agenda. Jim Hanley seconds. 6 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report given by Floy Creveling. Beginning balance \$12,368.22. Ending balance \$12,377.53. Rick Sayers makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jim Hanley seconds. 6 in favor. None opposed. Motion passed. (See attached). Floy Creveling filed the statement of information today, March 21, 2022.

1. Guest Comments – Judy Laffoon announced Chris Nichols is engaged.

2. 29 Palms MCAGCC – Kimberly Pope says the next Marine closure in Johnson Valley is April 29 - May 9, 2022. The date was April 26, but the date got moved back.

3. SB County Fire Dept – Chief Tuttle gives February stats: Johnson Valley 16 calls, Flamingo Heights and Landers 34 calls, Pioneertown 2 calls and Yucca Mesa 34 calls. Please change the battery in the smoke detectors. Clear out vegetation and watch out for snakes. The Red Cross got a grant for fire alarms and they installed 135 smoke detectors in 97 homes in 2 of the mobile home parks.

4. SB County Sheriffs Dept - Captain Niles gives February stats: 1600 calls. 6 stolen vehicles, 11 burglaries, 1 commercial burglary and 15 grand thefts. A lot of Landers and Johnson Valley anonymous calls. 1 arrest regarding a stolen vehicle and one vehicle recovered in Lucerne Valley. The Sheriffs department finally got some grant money for OHV in the amount of 50,000. The Sherrifs department is back to OHV patrols. There were 51 illegal OHV activities in Flamingo Heights, Landers and Johnson Valley.

5. Cal Fire - Battalion Chief Alison Hesterly said Cal Fire was at an airport fire in which 4,000 acres had burned. For a burn permit, visit sbcfir.org. This Tuesday through Saturday, the Santa Ana winds will prevail.

6. SB County 3rd District – Representative Steve Reyes explains AB 2728 and SB 1426. These two bills are being sponsored by the county. (See attached). Illegal wells are being dug and to report go on the Environmental Health Services website. Jim Harvey says to sign up for the HVCC email blast go on hvcc.org and hit the Newsletter button.

7. State Assemblyman Thurston “Smitty” Smith – Jim Harvey reads the Assemblyman bill 2728. (See attached).

8. State Senator Shannon Grove - Field Representative Dominic Heiden reads selected bills introduced by Senator Grove: SB 1042 would make human trafficking a serious and violent felony and make it a strike under the Three Strikes Law, SB 1156 would halt the automatic annual inflationary increase on the California gas tax, SB 1356 would increase the allowable weight for fuel haulers from 80,000 to 88,000lbs, SB 1484 would create a tax credit for business owners who hire homeless, foster or former foster youth. Other bills: AB 1599 would repeal Prop 47, AB 1638 would place a six-month pause on CA's state excise tax on gasoline and AB 2543 would aggregate shoplifting values over 12 months.

9. Proposed State Legislation for Illegal Cannabis Cultivation - Jim Harvey reads Proposed State Legislation for Illegal Cannabis Cultivation. (See attached). Jim Harvey will send a letter in support of AB2728.

10. Measure Z - June 2022 Ballot Measure to Repeal FP-5 (Fire Protection Service Zone 5) - Jim Harvey reads the ballot Measure Z to Repeal FP - 5 tax. (See attached). Chief Tuttle speaks regarding the FP - 5 tax.

11. Committees:

1. *Standing*: Public Outreach - Jim Harvey puts our agenda on the HVCC website.
2. *Ad Hoc*: Scenic Highway 247 - There's not good news regarding Scenic Highway 247.

12. President's Report - Jim Harvey bought an \$87 projector case. He would like to get another case for \$40. Any objections, no.

13. Community Reports List – Announcements – Kim Abramson says Johnson Valley Improvement Association will be having its Chicken dinner on April 2, 2022 at 5 pm for \$8 per person. Breakfast is from 7 am to 10 am every Saturday morning. Friday is Pinochle Club from 12pm to 4 pm. Cinco de Mayo dinner is May 7, 2022 from 3pm - \$10/person and it comes with a margarita. Floy Creveling says the 2nd Saturday is the craft faire at the Landers Association. The Adopt a Highway is the 3rd Saturday at Mile Marker 10-12. Quilting Club is the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. The MB Volunteer/Community Meeting is on March 30, 2022 at 6 pm at the YVCC in the Cholla room. The Morongo Basin Historical Society is having an event in Pioneertown called Remembering the Landers earthquake from 1 - 4 pm. Quilting Club is the 1st and 3rd Tuesday from 10 am - 2 pm. The Thrift Store is open every Saturday from 10 am - 3 pm. Roxanna Shamay says HELP is putting on 'The Hometown Hometown' May 21, 2022 from 12 pm - 12 am at the Homestead Valley Park in Landers. There will be 3 Western bands and a special guest. There will be food, beer and silent auction. More at the next meeting. The 3rd Saturday is the board meeting. Judy Lafoon said they picked up 13 bags of trash between Jesse Rd and Mile Marker 12. Every month they pick up trash. Roxanna Shamay said she talked to Mike Lipsitz regarding June 4, 2022 tire pick up. Rick Sayers says Yucca Mesa Improvement Association is still renting out their building for weddings, bar/bat mitzvah's, baby showers, etc. Mesa Fest might be September 23, 2022. Flamingo Heights is having it's septic tank done May 25, 2022.

14. Review Action Items From This Meeting - Jim Harvey will send two letters and follow up with Dan Munsey.

Next HVCC meeting: Monday, April 18, 2022 at 3:00 pm Yucca Mesa Community Center, 3133 Balsa Ave. Yucca Mesa

Adjourn

Homestead Valley Community Council, Inc.

Treasurer's Report

For the month of March 2022

Checking Account:

Beginning Statement Balance 03/01/2022..... \$12,377.53

Income..... \$ 9.22

EFT PayPal donation of \$9.22 (\$10.00 - \$0.78 fees = \$9.22)

Expense..... \$ 117.50

CK #704 Reimburse Jim Harvey for 2 website domain renewals \$ 30.51

Ck #705 Reimburse Jim Harvey for projector & microphone case \$86.99

Total \$117.50

Ending Statement Balance 03/31/2022..... \$12,269.25

Total HVCC Assets in Bank 03/31/2022..... \$12,269.25*

*The actual checkbook balance is currently \$12,278.47

There has been a PayPal donation of \$9.22 (\$10.00 - 0.78) since the 03/31/22 bank statement

Legend:

CK – Check DC– Debit Card DEP-Deposit EFT– Electronic Funds Transfer

Floy Creveling

Treasurer



SAVE THE DATE

UPDATED 2022 DATES

JOHNSON VALLEY SHARED USE AREA UPCOMING CLOSURE DATES

CLOSED IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY TRAINING

2022

APRIL 29 -
MAY 9, 2022*

2023

FEBRUARY 17 -
FEBRUARY 27, 2023

2023

AUGUST 25 -
SEPTEMBER 4, 2023



SMBPLMSJOHNSONVALLEY@USMC.MIL



www.29palms.marines.mil/Johnson-Valley/

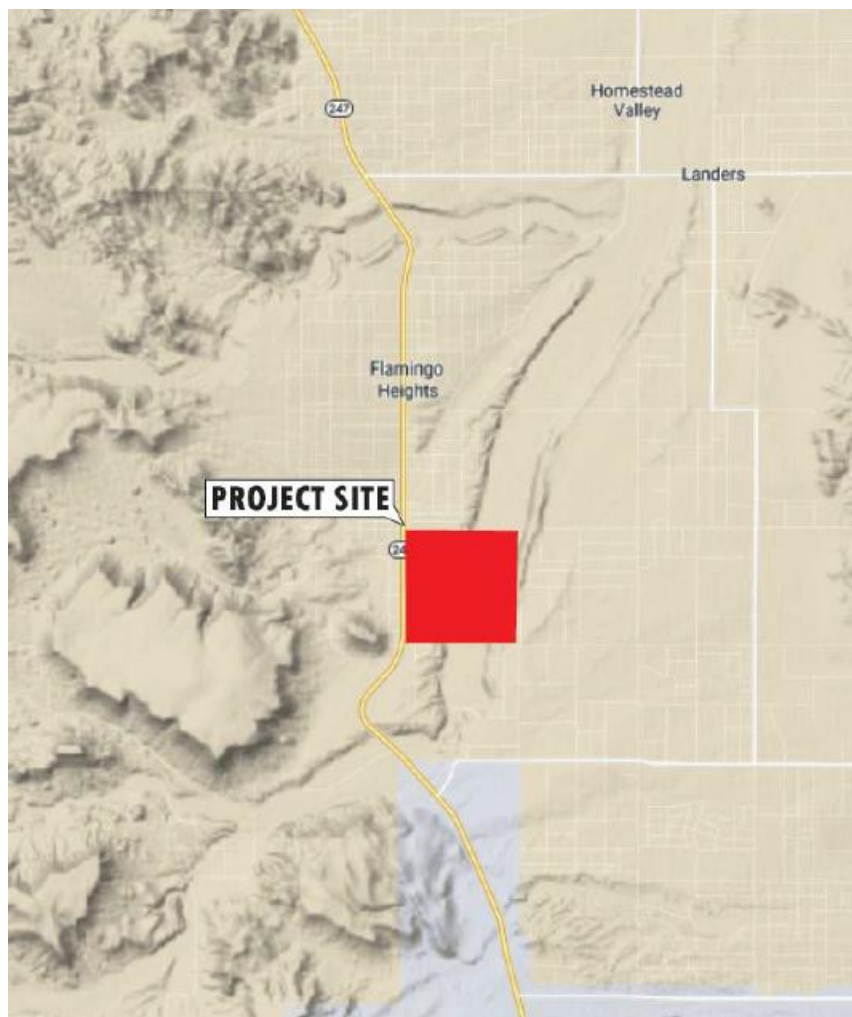
*reflects a change from the previously announced training dates for April and May 2022.





Homestead Valley Community Council Action Packet

Commenting On The INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) For the Flamingo Heights Resort Camping "Glamping" Proposal



On March 21, 2022, San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department issued a "NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) / NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION". The document can be downloaded from their website here:

http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/LUS/Environmental/Resort_Camping_Proj_2020_00191/Initial%20Study.pdf

Public comment is due by April 21, 2022 4:30 P.M. and needs to be submitted to:

Email: Jim.Morrissey@lus.sbcounty.gov

OR

Mail:

Jim Morrissey, Contract Planner
909-387-4234
County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department - Planning Division
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187

We recommend you reference **Resort Camping Project Number PROJ-2020-00191** as the project you are commenting on.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Negative Declaration?

A Negative Declaration (ND) is a written statement by the Lead Agency briefly describing the reasons why a proposed project, that is not exempt from CEQA, will not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Report.

Who is the Lead Agency?

The Lead Agency for this proposal is San Bernardino County Land Use Services

What is a Mitigated Negative Declaration?

A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is a negative declaration (ND) that incorporates revisions (mitigation measures) in the proposed project that will avoid or mitigate impacts to a point where clearly no significant impacts on the environment would occur.

Why would the project applicant want a Mitigated Negative Declaration?

Proposals like this glamping project require a CEQA analysis (California Environmental Quality Act). Part of the CEQA analysis can be a comprehensive EIR (Environmental Impact Report). For reasons unknown, SB County Land Use Services decided not to require an EIR and moved forward on the Mitigated Negative Declaration instead.

If the project applicant can receive an adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration by SB County Land Use Services, this EIR will not be required and the CEQA analysis will move forward without the more comprehensive environmental analysis.

In what circumstances is the preparation of an EIR required?

Preparation of an EIR is required when a Lead Agency determines that a proposed project would have one or more significant impacts on the environment based on a preliminary review of the project or completion of an Initial Study. The decision to prepare an EIR is based on substantial evidence and in light of the whole of the record before the Lead Agency, in this case SB County Land Use Services.

What will I be commenting on?

You will be commenting on the findings of the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The link for this document is at the beginning of this Action Packet. If you feel the findings of the study are flawed, or if the proposed mitigation measures are inadequate to address the issues, respectfully submit your concerns to the Contract Planner also identified at the beginning of this document.

Can my comment be as simple as “I am opposed to any glamping proposal in Flamingo Heights”?

Homestead Valley Community Council does not recommend this at this stage in the process. Instead, we recommend you comment on the specific findings in the document and include any evidence to support your disagreement to the findings and/or mitigation measures.

What is Homestead Valley Community Council’s take on this IS/MND?

Homestead Valley Community Council believes there are enough factors pointing to one or more significant environmental impacts to disqualify the MND and for the SB County Land Use Services to instead complete a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Report under CEQA. We are convinced an EIR will produce findings for significant impacts to biological, cultural, visual resources, and traffic and highway safety, not determined in the less comprehensive MND.



April 15, 2022

TO JIM MORRISSEY, Contract Planner

COMMENT PROJECT NUMBER: PROJ-2020-00191 ASSESSOR PARCEL NO: 0629-181-01

The Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) is a coalition of the community associations in the four unincorporated communities of Yucca Mesa, Flamingo Heights, Landers, and Johnson Valley.

On April 25, 2021, HVCC commented on the Project. Several items in that letter have evidently been overlooked or ignored in this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

Item 1) ZONING: HVCC related in detail the County's 2009 change of zoning in Flamingo Heights, establishing a **Commercial Zone corridor along State Route 247** (Old Woman Springs Road). Deemed best located along the more northerly sections, it included existing businesses while limiting driveways and unmarked roads for traffic safety entering the highway.

The planned resort site entry road is to follow the path of an existing dirt road. No mention is made of turn lanes from the two-lane highway.

The plan touts recreational facilities on the site; Flamingo Heights residents' experience shows vacation renters seek out many other desert attractions, and will drive onto Hwy 247 to tour many nearby places.

Entering or leaving this road always risks traffic speeding or passing, a major motivation for approving the 2009 location of the Commercial Zone. A known trouble spot – the swooping curve south of the resort entry, leading to the steep downhill turn into Pipes Wash.

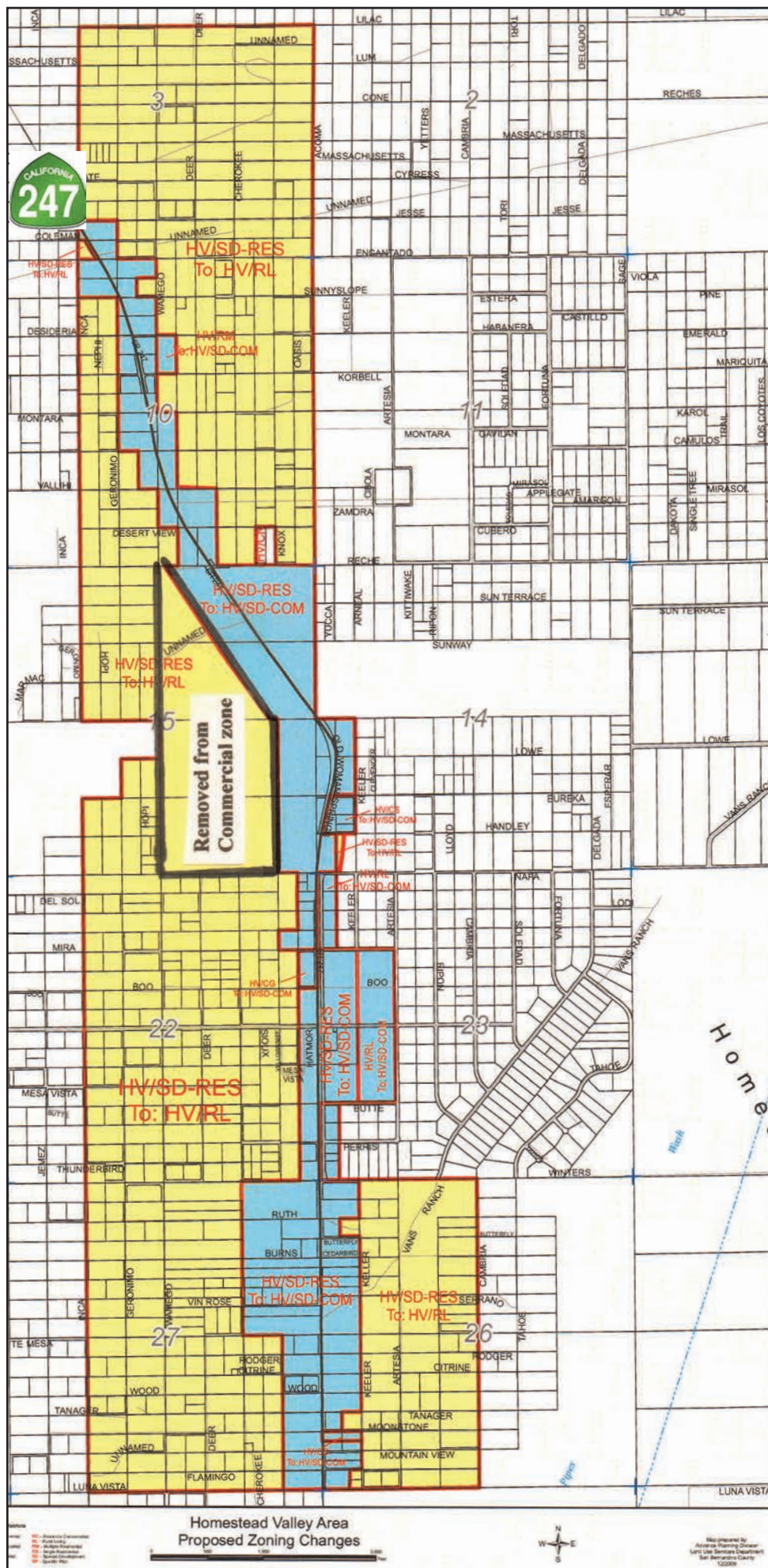
The Mitigated Negative Declaration states:

"The parcel is described as Assessor's Parcel No. 0629-181-01 and has a Countywide Plan designation of Rural Living (RL) and a zoning designation of Homestead Valley Rural Living"

In 2009, San Bernardino County proposed major zoning changes in the Homestead Valley community of Flamingo Heights.

A very long public process consolidated the Flamingo Heights Commercial Zone northwards. All the changes were made with public input to the County to protect and maintain the Rural Living Zones. SEE MAP Page 2 >>

By any criterion, this campsite is a commercial project applying for a permit in a Rural Living Zone protected by the 2009 changes. This cannot be mitigated. If it were a motel, it could not be permitted. Therefore, this Mitigated Negative Declaration does not adequately address the non-fulfill-



ment of the qualifications for the protected HV/RL zoning.

HVCC believes a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Report under CEQA will produce impact findings of significant impact, not only on biological resources but also on traffic safety.

What will be the cumulative affect? Would this set a precedent? Could all Rural Living Zones be so easily disrupted by such commercial projects?

<< FIGURE 1A
Detail of map showing zoning changes proposed by SB County in Flamingo Heights and approved by the community in 2009

FIGURE 1B
Page 3 >>
Detail of map showing resort campsite parcel does not lie in the Commercial Zone

FIGURE 2
Page 3 >>
Google map street view of curve in S.R. 247 near the resort camp public entry

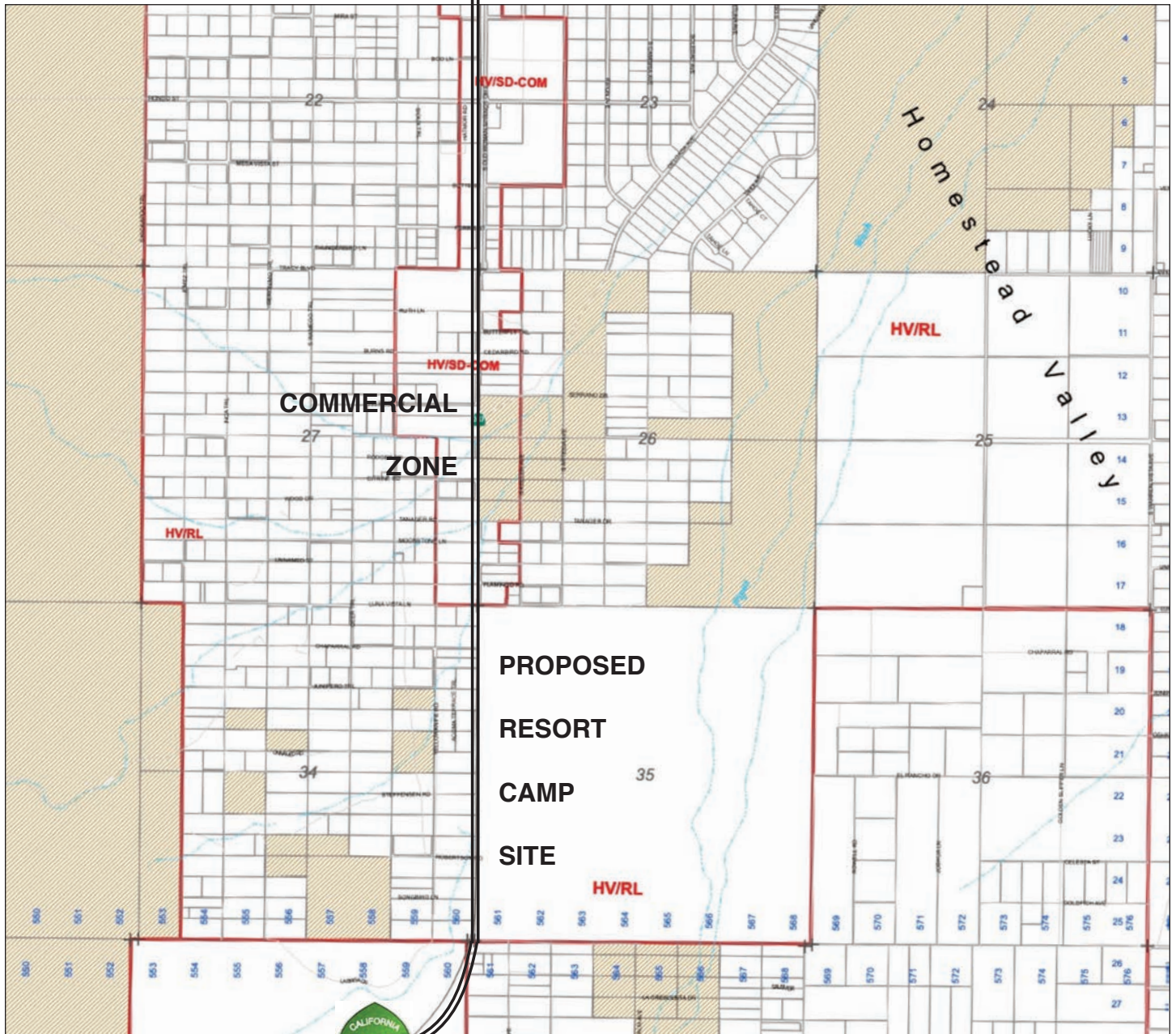


FIGURE 1B Parcel not in Commercial Zone



FIGURE 2 View south and Map of highway curve near entry

Item 2) S.R.247: HVCC is lead organization in the campaign to upgrade State Route 247 from a County Scenic Byway to a California Scenic Highway. The Scenic Corridor extends as far as the eye can see.

The scenic designation in Section 1 of the Visual Assessment accepted by Caltrans extends to Milepost 6.5 on the highway itself.

However, at that point the northbound traveler emerging out of Pipes Wash follows the northward curve of the road. The viewshed includes the entire panoramic vista proposed for this resort camping development, with a background of distant hills and mountains in Landers.



FIGURE 3 View northeast from S.R. 247 across the resort camp site, toward faraway hills in Landers. Even low-growing creosote bushes and other desert shrubs are visible at a long distance.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration argues, "The proposed Project would be required to maintain the maximum height limit of 35 feet, as is allowed within the Rural Living Zone. The placement of the camp sites generally along the westerly edge of the canyon would not obstruct the views of others toward the canyon..."

This declaration of "no significant impact" obstruction of views is beside the point. The site facilities may not constitute a visual obstruction, however they would rate as a significant visual intrusion in themselves.

HVCC argues that a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Report under CEQA, including a detailed description of the height and extent of any permanent facilities and the visibility of a large number of parked vehicles, will produce one or more findings of significant impact, not only on biological resources but a substantial adverse effect on a wide open scenic vista.

Item 3) BLM Protections

The MND has not addressed the HVCC comment concerning the Federal Bureau of Land Management ***Pipes Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern*** which includes the site of the proposed campground.

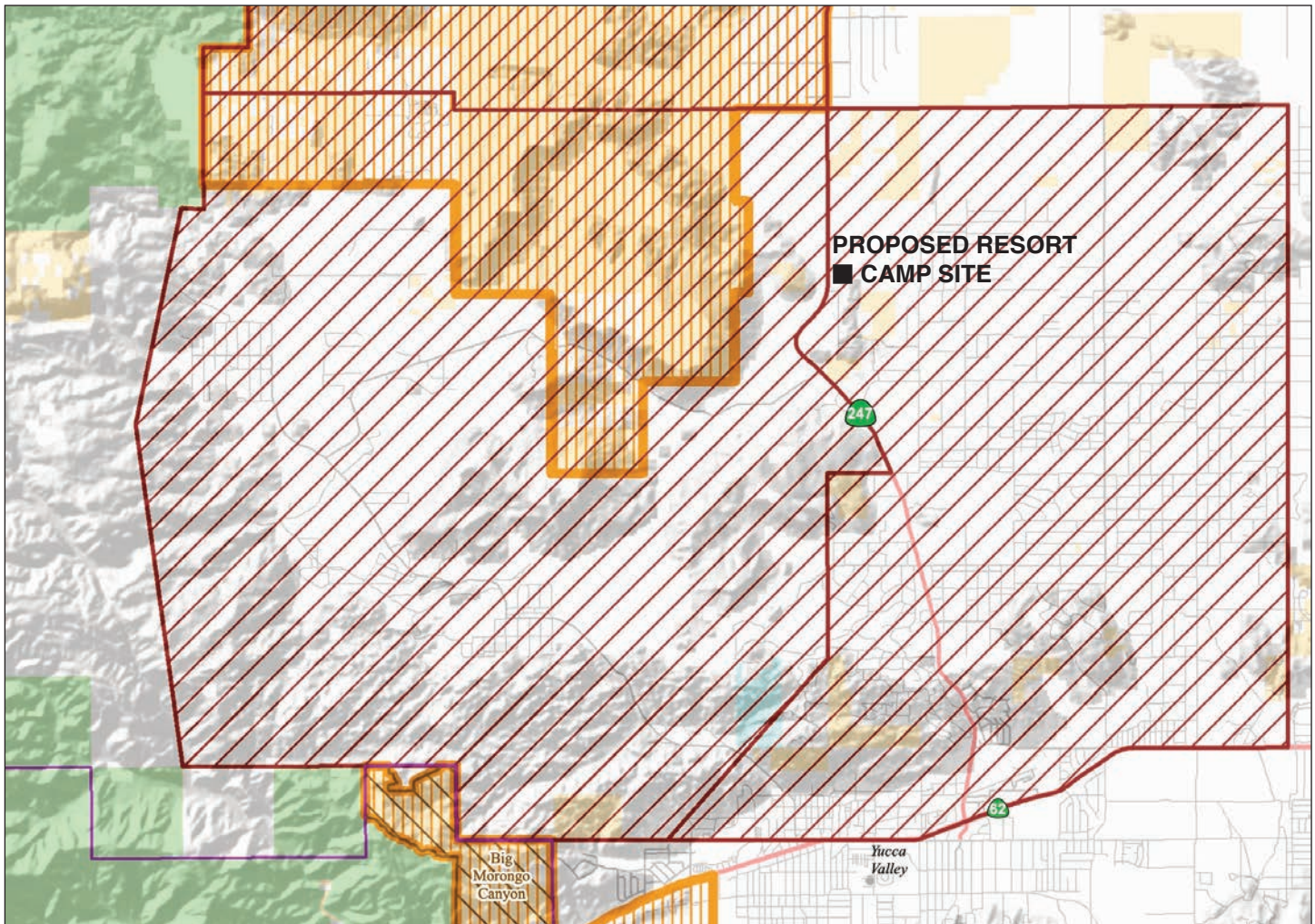


FIGURE 4 Dark red diagonal lines show much of the extent of the ACEC

The document fails to acknowledge the Bureau of Land Management interest. BLM has included a very wide area around the black lava buttes in their *Pipes Canyon ACEC*. It surrounds Pioneertown and Rimrock; its eastern area lies south of Landers and north of Yucca Valley. It includes the site of the proposed resort camp. The list of biological protections is long.

Considering Nationally Significant Cultural Values: The Pipes Canyon ACEC protects numerous prehistoric resources that meet criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

It has the greatest concentration of known NRHP-eligible sites within the Barstow Field Office. Sites include petroglyphs, pictographs, rock shelters, and artifacts on trails, village sites, and milling sites.

HVCC argues that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report under CEQA is needed, and will disclose one or more significant impacts on both biological and cultural values in the proposed resort camp site.

Item 4) Habitat This MND states “There is no USFWS-designated critical habitat for any species within 10 miles of the Project Site.”

Mitigations preserving Joshua Trees may soon be subject only to existing State requirements.

The surveys reporting no federal Species of Special Concern (desert tortoises or burrowing owls) contradict the County’s own Biotic Map! “Less than significant impact” is notoriously claimed for impact on species which have their dens below ground and/or rarely emerge during daylight hours.

Also, “ADDITIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES Federal: None.” seems to overlook the BLM again.

HVCC argues that County must require a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Report under CEQA, and that it will disclose one or more significant impacts on wildlife and vegetation habitat.

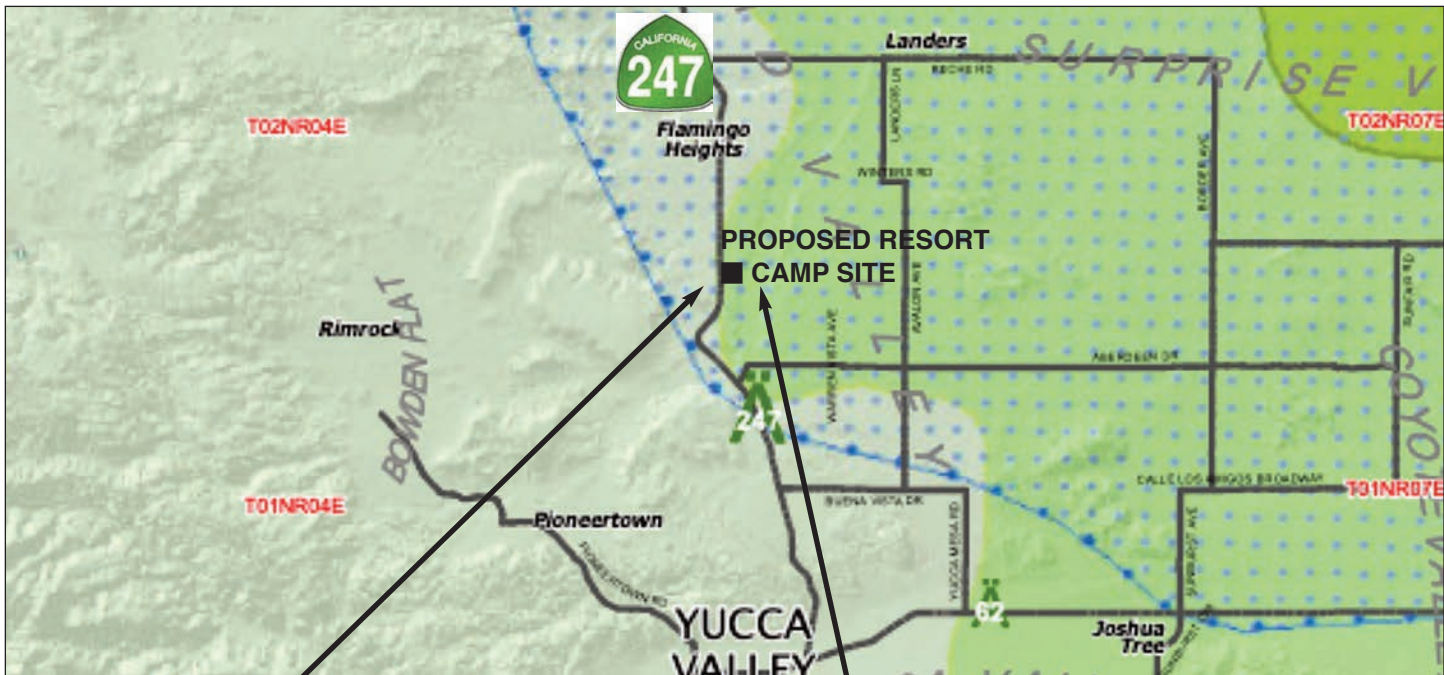
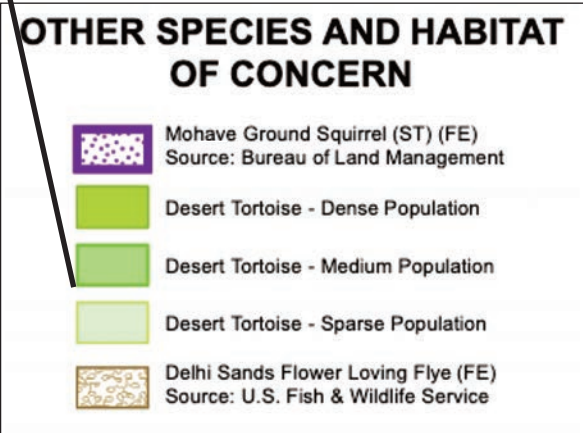


FIGURE 4 Details from County Biotic Resources Map





April 25, 2021

We repeat: Given the items listed here:

1. The 2009 County zoning agreement we entered into in good faith to protect Rural Living Zones and restrict driveway access to the highway, plus the willful disregard by the developer by proposing to site a commercial project outside the commercial corridor,
2. The intrusion of the Project facilities and multiple vehicles on the proposed commercial resort site into the line-of-sight in the State Route 247 Scenic Corridor,
3. The intrusion of this commercial resort site into the BLM ACEC,
4. The judgement call of "no critical habitat" at or near the site, despite County surveys to the contrary,

therefore the Homestead Valley Community Council opposes a Conditional Use Permit for this ill-conceived Project.

We urge San Bernardino County Land Use Services to adjudge this Mitigated Negative Declaration as inadequate and produce a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Report as required by CEQA.

Knowing the area well, we believe an EIR will disclose one or more significant impacts on biological, cultural and visual values as well as traffic safety.

FYI: at a recent HVCC meeting with a packed house, all comments opposed this project, and everyone voted against it.

Thank you for your attention,

Betty Munson, Secretary, HVCC