

VISION AGUA CALIENTE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Draft Tribal Environmental Impact Report for master plan ready for review

PALM SPRINGS - The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians has completed a Draft Tribal Environmental Impact Report addressing the potential environmental effect of the proposed Vision Agua Caliente Master Plan for an area in downtown Palm Springs.

The Tribe will accept written comment on the draft TEIR until March 13, 2017. The Draft TEIR is available on the Tribe's website at <http://www.aguacaliente.org/content/vision/>.

The Tribe will also accept comments on the contents of the Draft TEIR at a meeting planned for 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017 at the Palm Springs Convention Center, Mesquite Room H, located at 277 N. Avenida Caballeros in Palm Springs.

The Vision Agua Caliente Master Plan focuses on a project site that includes about 18 acres of Tribal Trust land located within the Section 14 Specific Plan area in downtown Palm Springs. The project included in the Vision Agua Caliente Master Plan is bounded by Amado Road, Calle El Segundo, Tahquitz Canyon Way and Indian Canyon Drive.

The project site contains the existing Spa Resort Casino, located north of Andreas Road between Calle El Segundo and Calle Encilia, surface parking lots, vacant land, and property that is currently home to a U.S. Post Office on the southwest corner of Amado Road and Calle Encilia.

The Vision Agua Caliente Master Plan would allow the expansion of the Spa Resort Casino by up to 68,000 square feet and the development and replacement of up to 350 hotel rooms within 510,000 square feet of hotel space. The Master Plan also includes up to 60,000 square feet of meeting space, 50,000 square feet of mixed use/cultural/retail space, a 40,000 square foot spa/fitness center, and approximately 650 parking spaces. The Master Plan includes a Building Height Overlay Zone where a maximum building height of 175 feet will be allowed.

The Draft TEIR concludes air quality, land use and planning, population and housing, public services (fire services and law enforcement), operation noise, and utilities and service systems (solid waste and energy) impacts would be less than significant, and that potentially significant aesthetic, cultural resources, water resources, construction noise, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service system (water supply, wastewater, and drainage) impacts can be mitigated to less than significant by implementing the mitigation measures identified in the Draft TEIR. No significant effects on the environment were identified.

The Tribe is soliciting comments from affected public agencies and other interested parties on the content of the Draft TEIR. The Draft TEIR is in compliance with the Tribal Environmental Policy Act (Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Ordinance No. 28) and Section 11.1 of the Tribal-State Compact between the State of California and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Comments on the plan will be accepted in writing until March 13, 2017 and should be sent to:

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The [Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians](http://www.aguacaliente-nsn.gov) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in Palm Springs, California, with 32,000 acres of reservation lands that spread across Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage and into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains. For more information about the Tribe, visit: www.aguacaliente-nsn.gov

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