COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Patricia Romo
Interim Director

Dennis Acuna, P.E.
Deputy for Transportation
Capital Projects

Russell Williams
Deputy for Transportation
Planning and Development

Transportation Department
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

March 6, 2024

PROJECT TITLE: **Highway 74 and Mountain Avenue Signal Project**
Work Order# ZD20116C Task# Z1530

PROJECT SPONSOR: County of Riverside Transportation Department

PROJECT LOCATION: Intersection of Highway 74 and Mountain Avenue in the Community of Good Hope in Riverside County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The County of Riverside Transportation Department proposes to install a traffic signal and safety lighting at the intersection of Highway 74 and Mountain Avenue. The Project will widen Mountain Avenue to add a southbound left turn lane and widen Highway 74 to add a westbound right turn lane. It will also construct two curb returns and one pedestrian ramp and include new crosswalk locations.

The proposed project does not require additional right of way nor temporary construction easements.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS: The Project is outside of MSHCP Criteria Cells, but is still subject to compliance with the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSHCP). Under Section 7.1 Covered Activities Outside Criteria Area and PQP lands of the WRMSHCP, necessary operation and maintenance projects, as this project is considered, are Covered Activities and are not subject to survey or mitigation requirements outside criteria area and Public/Quasi-Public Lands.

If tree and/or vegetation removal takes place during the migratory bird breeding season (February 1 – September 1), a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

4080 Lemon Street, 8th Floor · Riverside, CA 92501 · (951) 955-6740
P.O. Box 1090 · Riverside, CA 92502-1090 · FAX (951) 955-3198

Hazardous Waste

A review of the published lists of known hazardous substance sites provided by GeoTracker and EnviroStor did not identify any RECs within 1 mile of the property location.

Cultural Resources

Based on the results of the cultural record search performed on January 10, 2023 the project is anticipated to result in no effects to cultural resources. Due to the extensive amount of ground disturbance present and based on the historic past usage of the APE, it is unlikely that the APE contains buried unique archaeological resources or resources eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources.

The County of Riverside Transportation Department has found that the above-described project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), based on the following:

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines:

Section 15301 (c) – Existing Facilities – The project proposes to install a traffic signal and safety lighting as well as widen Mountain Ave. to add a southbound left turn lane and widen Highway 74 to add a westbound right turn lane. Project improvements provide for limited widening at the approach to the intersection which will enhance safety for the traveling public at the intersection. The minor alteration of existing streets involving negligible or no expansion of use are exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 (c). The improvements are consistent with Section 15301(c) because there is negligible or no expansion of the existing use.

Section 15301(f) – Addition of safety protection devices for use in conjunction with existing facilities–Traffic signal and lighting will be installed at the intersection which will enhance the safety for the traveling public at the intersection. The addition of safety lighting is consistent with Section 15301(f).

By: Don Copeland, Senior Transportation Planner

Signed: Jan Bulinski

Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

Patricia Romo
Interim Director of
Transportation

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Planning and Development

DATE: March 6, 2024

TO: Josefina Castillo-Avila, ACR Technician III

FROM: Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

RE: **Project Name**
W.O. # ZD20116C Task Code #Z1530

The County of Riverside Transportation Department is requesting that you post the attached Notice of Exemption per County Implementing Resolution No. 82-213, Division 11, Section 205C. Attached you will find an authorization to bill by journal voucher in the amount of $50.00 for your posting fee.

After posting, please return the document to Mail Stop #2136, Attention: Don Copeland. If you have any questions, please contact Don Copeland at dcopelan@rivco.org.

Attachment

cc: file

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P.O. Box 1090 · Riverside, CA 92502-1090 · FAX (951) 955-3198

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE CLERK & RECORDER

AUTHORIZATION
TO BILL
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER

-TO BE FILLED IN BY SUBMITTING AGENCY-
537280-20000-3130500000 Work Order #ZD20116C Task Order# Z1530

AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: W.O.#ZD20116C Task Code Z1530

AMOUNT: $50.00

DATE: March 6, 2024

AGENCY: County of Riverside Transportation Department

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO ISSUE A VOUCHER FOR PAYMENT OF ALL FILING AND HANDLING FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT(S).

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: One (1)

AUTHORIZED BY: Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

Signature: Jan Bulinski

PRESENTED BY: Don Copeland, Senior Transportation Planner

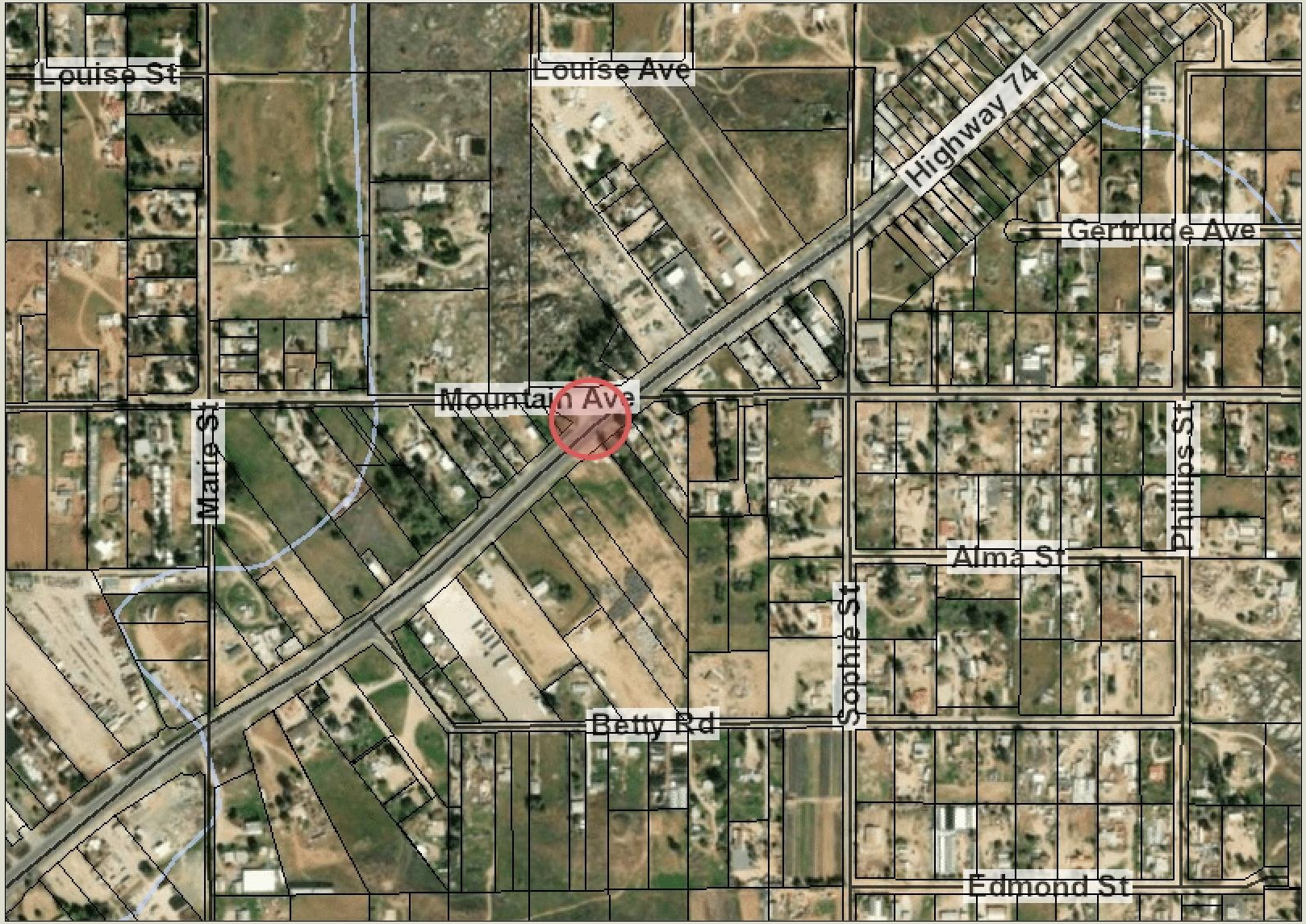
-TO BE FILLED IN BY COUNTY CLERK-

ACCEPTED BY: _

DATE: _

RECEIPT # (S) _

Hwy 74 & Mountain Ave Turn Pocket/Signal



Legend

- Parcels
- WRC Criteria Cell Numbers
- PQP Conserved Lands
  - OTHER PQP CONSERVED LAND
  - CONSERVATION EASEMENT
  - PQP CONSERVED LANDS
  - PREEXISTING CONSERVATION
- RCA Conserved Lands
- Fluvial Sand Transport Areas
- Coachella Valley Conservation
  - Other Conservation Area
  - Cabazon Conservation Area
  - Coachella Valley Stormwater Chan Conservation Area
  - Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conse
  - Dos Palmas Conservation Area
  - East Indio Hills Conservation Area
  - Edom Hill Conservation Area
  - Highway 111\I-10 Conservation Are
  - Indio Hills Palms Conservation Are
  - Indio Hills\Joshua Tree National Pa Area
  - Joshua Tree National Park Conser
  - Long Canyon Conservation Area
  - Mecca Hills\Orocopia Mountains C
  - Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Moun
  - Snow Creek\Windy Point Conserva
  - Stubbe and Cottonwood Canyons

RCIT

0 752 1,505 Feet

IMPORTANT Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. Map features are approximate, and are not necessarily accurate to surveying or engineering standards. The County of Riverside makes no warranty or guarantee as to the content (the source is often third party), accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any of the data provided, and assumes no legal responsibility for the information contained on this map. Any use of this product with respect to accuracy and precision shall be the sole responsibility of the user.

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Notes