



City of La Quinta

March 24, 2016

City of Indio
Development Services Department
100 Civic Center Mall
La Quinta, CA 92253
Attn: Les Johnson, Development Services Director

**SUBJECT: Music Festivals Plan, City of Indio –
Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Music Festivals Plan Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). City staff received notice of the Addendum document on Monday, March 14, 2016 and based on our review there will be a potential increase to the impacts experienced by the City of La Quinta with regards to the Festival events. A subsequent letter to the City of Indio will be submitted after a comprehensive review of the document prior to final consideration of the Addendum to the FEIR by the Indio City Council. The following are comments based upon our initial review:

- A Subsequent or Supplemental EIR should be prepared to analyze the substantial changes to the project that increase the severity of the previously identified significant impacts. The 2012 EIR for the Music Festival Plans evaluated a maximum of 99,000 all-inclusive persons per day for higher attendance events. There will be an increase in the substantial impacts related to Traffic, Air Quality, Noise, and Public Services with the proposed increase in attendance for the festival of up to an additional 26,000 persons and 8,000 vehicles daily.
- Noise Impacts:
 1. The existing Festival Permit does not allow sound checks to take place before 10:00 a.m. on any day in conformance with the FEIR mitigation measure FPF Noise-2. The proposed modification to the permit would allow sound checks to take place as early as 8:00 a.m. on Festival dates. This proposed change would create a significant impact to the residents of the City of La Quinta at levels that exceed

noise thresholds in the La Quinta Municipal Code between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. that were not evaluated in the Draft EIR and Addendum to the DEIR. It is requested that the modified permit not allow sounds checks earlier than 10:00 a.m. on any day.

2. The Noise analysis does not analyze the impacts to sensitive receptors that include residential neighborhoods in the City of La Quinta within the vicinity of the Festival location.
 3. A new campground site for the Festival events is proposed adjacent to Avenue 52 directly across from the Madison Club residential neighborhood in the Modified Festival Site Plan in Figure 2.0-4. The new site is likely to result in new noise impacts that have not been properly evaluated in the Noise Study in the Addendum. There are currently no campground locations for the Festival events along Avenue 52. It is requested that the campground facilities be located away from residential neighborhoods. The 2012 EIR identified that sound levels generated by individual voices could be a source of annoyance to surrounding residents and contribute to the significant noise impact (DEIR page 7.3-3).
- Traffic Impacts:

Page 1.0.4, Paragraph 3: This indicates that no new information of substantial importance has been discovered that was not known . The intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 52 were restriped to a one-lane roundabout in November 2015. As a result, it has become evident that during any kind of special event, the capacity of the roundabout is exceeded on some approaches and long queues develop. This is anticipated to occur during all peak inbound and outbound traffic periods associated with all festival activities and will require manual traffic control by the La Quinta Police Department. This should be identified as a mitigation measure in this Addendum.

During the Monday morning peak traffic period when traffic is exiting the festival site and traveling north on Jefferson Street toward the Interstate 10 freeway, the capacity of the Jefferson Street corridor is completely overwhelmed and the roadway turns into a parking lot. Based on experience, the only way to process this level of traffic is to:

- Direct traffic exiting the festival to other corridors to the east of the festival site.
- Implement a special timing plan between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and noon based on a cycle length of 180 to 200

seconds which would allow the synchronized signal system along Jefferson Street between Vista Grande and Avenue 49 to provide sufficient capacity to prevent Jefferson Street from becoming a parking lot. This will require blocking off the northbound left turn lane at Jefferson and Vista Grande during this time period as it is too short to store left-turning vehicles when the turn phase is red. This comment also applies to item 7 on Page 3.6-10 of this Addendum. This comment applies to various sections of the Addendum where reference is made to the problems created by festival traffic exiting the parking areas on the Monday following each event.

- Page 3.16-1: The second bullet commits the City of La Quinta to potentially installing or agreeing to install temporary traffic signal devices during events. The Addendum needs to be more specific on what these devices might be and who will pay for the design and construction costs. There is also a concern that some residents may oppose the removal of these temporary devices once the festivals are over. This is consistent with what has been experienced in other communities.
- Page 3.6-11: The table which begins on this page needs to incorporate manual traffic control and potential temporary cone placement on the approaches to the Jefferson Street and Avenue 52 roundabout.
- Page 3.6-18: The Parking Capacity section indicates an increase of 4,970 spaces for car camping and day parking. It is questionable whether this increase will be sufficient based on complaints received from La Quinta residents. The residents have complained about festival attendees parking on the sides of La Quinta roadways and in vacant lots during the festival events.
- Page 3.6-26: The Traffic Management Plan needs to include the roundabout at Jefferson Street and Avenue 52.
- Table 3.6-4: The Jefferson Street and Avenue 52 intersection level of services is reported at F under all scenarios. The analysis points to the need for a full, two-lane roundabout to handle future event related traffic and for manual traffic control during festival events until such time as the two-lane improvement has been constructed.

- Public Services Impacts:
 1. The Vendor shall submit an application and receive an encroachment permit from the City of La Quinta prior to placement of directional or control signage upon city-maintained public roadways.
 2. The Vendor shall use only sworn peace officers when directing traffic upon City of La Quinta roadways or intersections without prior approval from the City of La Quinta. Any civilian traffic control company that may be deemed authorized by the City of La Quinta to conduct traffic control upon public roadways shall present acceptable proof of liability bond to the City of La Quinta.
 3. The Vendor shall pay to the City of La Quinta all public safety costs, as determined by the La Quinta Police Department, associated with each date of their event.
 4. The Vendor shall pay for a City of La Quinta traffic signal technician to be available each date of the event.
 5. The Vendor shall pay all costs for City of La Quinta Code Compliance estimated to be a total of 103 officer hours for the festival events.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments for the proposed Music Festivals Plan Addendum to the FEIR and we are interested to ensuring the success of the music festival events with minimal impacts to the residents of the City of La Quinta. Should you have any questions, please contact Gabriel Perez, Planning Manager at 760-777-7062 or me at 760-777-7042.

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Jonasson, P.E.
Design and Development Director/City Engineer

CC: La Quinta City Council
Dan Martinez, City of Indio