

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
3500 INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691



(Date)

(Address)

Dear (Representative),

In 2014, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) proposed the Lake Perris Emergency Release Facility (ERF) Project (Project). The Project's goal is to construct a water conveyance facility to connect the Perris Dam outlet works to the Perris Valley Storm Drain to protect lives and property in the event of an emergency drawdown of Lake Perris. Project construction consists of improvements such as levees, a channel, bridges, culverts, drop structures and a drainage system, to direct water to into the Perris Valley Storm Drain (See Figures 1 and 2).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance for the ERF was documented in the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which was published in 2014. The original project described in the EIR included three components, dam remediation, outlet tower replacement, and emergency outlet extension. Additionally, some of the upcoming work, such as in the outlet tower and tunnel, was cleared for CEQA by the EIR for the Perris Dam Remediation Program (See Figure 2). In the intervening years, there has been one Addendum submitted to the ERF's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in 2020 with a second one planned in 2021. The 2020 Addendum included minor project footprint changes, utility relocations, addition of bank stabilization material in the Perris Valley Storm Drain, changes to the haul route, and modifications to the local drainage. The 2021 Addendum will propose additional work including the addition of an underdrain beneath the proposed channel and the placement of buried rodent-deterrent mesh in the levee core.

The project footprint is located approximately 15 miles south of the City of Riverside, partially in an unincorporated portion of western Riverside County and partially in the City of Perris. Project work will take place in Sections 4, 10, and 11 of Township 4 South, Range 3 West on the Perris United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle (See Figure 1).

In 2013, Environmental Science Associates (ESA) prepared a Phase 1 Cultural Resources Study. ESA also contacted the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS)'s Eastern Information Center (EIC) and conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project footprint. In 2019, ESA conducted an Historic Resources Evaluation Report which detailed the eligibility of historical resources in the project footprint. Due to the years between the original project and the two Addenda, DWR requested an updated Sacred Lands File Search from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), on which (the Tribe) was listed.

DWR would like to initiate consultation with the Tribe on this project, including changes proposed since the Final EIR was published. This letter is a request for assistance from you regarding the identification of cultural resources that may exist within the project area. Cultural resources include archaeological sites, features such as bedrock milling stations, and places or natural features associated with important traditional beliefs or traditional activities such as plant gathering. Your help with recognizing such resources allows for them to be avoided and protected to the maximum extent possible. We understand that the location of these resources is sensitive. Resource locations will not be disclosed in public documents and will be kept confidential as provided for in California Government Code Section 6254.10. DWR would greatly appreciate a response to this letter from the Tribe by August 31, 2020.

Consultation under Assembly Bill 52 does not apply to this project since the Addenda contain only minor project changes and does not require public circulation. Therefore, DWR is requesting consultation under its own Tribal Engagement Policy.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Daniel Jackson at (916) 670-3549 or [Daniel.Jackson@water.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Jackson@water.ca.gov). Please also feel free to contact either of us directly at [Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov](mailto:Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 653-8726 or [David.Sarkisian@water.ca.gov](mailto:David.Sarkisian@water.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 653-4395.

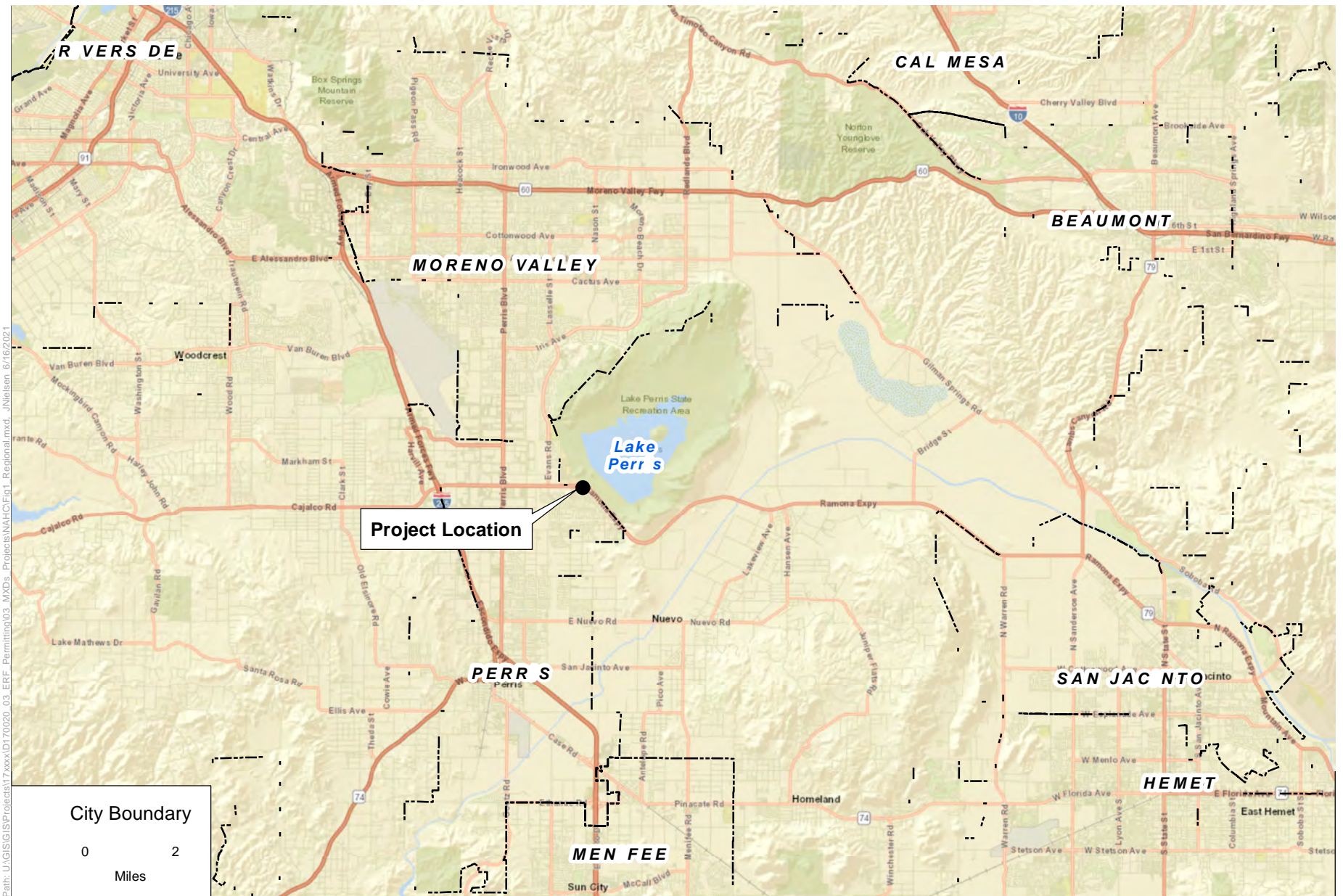
Sincerely,



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SOURCE: ESRI

Perris Dam Emergency Release Facility Project

**Figure 1**  
Regional Location





SOURCE: Nearmap Imagery 5/7/2020; DWR, ESA.

Perris Dam Emergency Release Facility

**Figure 2**  
Proposed Project Components