

MBCA News
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Want you to know about these time sensitive topics:

Altamira Housing Project: COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION REQUESTED

The Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) at their September meeting this week passed a resolution requesting that the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors provide a 30 day extension to October 13 to the public comment period for this proposed high-density walled housing project.

The deadline for comment had previously been this Friday, September 12, 2014.

While the MAC does not have the authority to extend the period, MBCA contacted County Senior Planner, Chris Warrick who stated he would accept comments up until the Public Hearing before the Planning Commission. However, he was not sure of that date.

Please do not delay in registering your comments: the more comments and the sooner they are submitted the better to let County Planners understand the strong community opposition to the project moving forward without appropriate environmental study.

The MAC Resolution states:

Whereas the community must have access to project specific documents in order to conduct a fair evaluation and those documents were not made available until September 3, 2014, and

Whereas, at the end of the comment period the project can proceed with no additional documentation or public input to the Planning Commission for approval, and

Whereas, based on the public controversy that has followed this project for more than eight years, the MB-MAC feels that the IS/MND* may not serve the public's need for a complete environmental review under CEQA.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that the public comment period should be extended for 30 days to 5:00 p.m. October 13, 2014.

* MBCA note: * IS = Initial Study, MND = Mitigated Negative Declaration;

The project specific documents state the developers' belief that all environmental factors in the Initial Study have "less than significant impact."

The MBCA worked to obtain the project specific documents from the County, reviewed and assessed them, and made them available on the MBCA website for the community's ability to meaningfully comment. We ask you to review the [MBCA website](#) for project background information and "selected areas of environmental concern." Send your comments (brief or extensive) to:

Chris Warrick, Planner via e-mail: cwarrick@lusc.sbcounty.gov

Or you may mail printed comments to: Chris Warrick, Senior Planner, County of San Bernardino, Land Use Services Dept. – Planning Division, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

REMINDER: Film Premier "Who Are My People?"

Saturday, September 13; Astronomy Arts Theatre, 2601 Sunfair, JT

Open air screening: doors open at 7:00 PM, program begins at 7:30 PM.

Program includes music, speakers, & food. The filmmaker & indigenous elders will be present. Donations welcome.

Filmmaker Robert Lundahl documents Native American culture in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts and the fight to protect sacred geoglyph sites along the Colorado River. The ancient Blythe Intaglios are giant Earth drawings of human forms, geometries, and pictorial representations that embody the world-view of tribal communities and cultures. Several geoglyphs located on BLM lands have been destroyed by solar energy development. Over twenty remaining ancient sites are endangered.

For additional details & a clip from the film:

[COALESCENCE: Save America's Cultural Treasures](#)

The filmmaker and local supporters encourage us to show our support on the [change.org petition](#): *Protect America's Treasures and Sacred Lands*.

Thanks for your continuing interest and support! !

Sincerely,

Sarah Kennington, President

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*MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment
that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth,
and economic well-being.*