

Technical Committee Recommendation
Consideration of BLM access right-of-way in Diamond Valley, Assignment #1
September 2016

Assignment: To consider and evaluate a mitigation package for the proposed project, BLM access right-of-way in Diamond Valley

Background: Kirk Willey is proposing a private two-lane paved access road w/ a center median through the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. This access road would extend from SR-18 east to his 400 acre proposed residential community located south of Diamond Valley and north of Winchester Hills. An easement would be required for utilities (e.g., gas, sewer, and possibly water) which would be installed under the roadway. The project proponent anticipates high traffic flows for this parcel (700+ households on 400+ acres).

TC recommendation:

Although the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve is an avoidance area for new utilities and strongly encourages project proponents to locate utilities along existing utility corridors, the utility development protocol is in place to address proposed utility development and minimize impacts to tortoises and their habitat. However, there is no protocol in place to allow for and address new permanent roads through the Reserve. Due to the nature of this request, the TC requests that the HCAC give the TC formal guidance in how to proceed with this unprecedented proposed road project (see TC motion below from Draft TC minutes, 9/1/2016).

MOTION by Nathan Brown to recommend the HCAC have a formal evaluation of this project and a vote to decide if a new road in the Reserve is legal within the framework of the HCP. If the HCAC determines it is not, the motion ends. If yes, there will be a follow up recommendation from the TC.

Seconded by John Kellam.

Discussion: None.