



COCHOQUA KINGDOM COUNCIL NPC 9201470206.

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MAMRE

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WESTERN CAPE

17 December 2019

SOUTH AFRICA

7347

Dear Ms. Postlethwayt

cindy@cpheritage.co.za

RE: Comments Draft Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the Site 'Two Rivers' (formerly Two Rivers Urban Park).

1. **OBJECTION:** The Cochoqua Traditional Council of South Africa write as an Interested and Affected Party to lodge our comments with respect to the Draft Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the Site 'Two Rivers' (formerly Two Rivers Urban Park as advertised for comment by December 17th 2019. In this regard we wish to place on record that we object to the proposed River Club development in its current form.
2. **The Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Bill (TKLB):** Passed by Parliament and signed and promulgated by the President of South Africa in 2019: Neither the Western Cape Government, City of Cape Town and the Developers have engaged the acknowledged Khoi and San Traditional Leaders on the matter as prescribed by the TKLB and it is hereby proposed that proper dialogue, interaction and protocol be followed.
3. **Comment 1:** I Paramount Chief David Johannes is a true descendent of the Khoi people who lived on the Liesbeek. As members of the Cochoqua Tribe in the Western Cape we therefore agree with the Goringhaicona Tribe and Civil Society that we consider this area as part of our heritage and wish to have a say in what is done.
4. **Comment 2:** A sense of place and landscapes have been shown to be of equal importance to people as are artefacts and buildings. The TRUP area has both these heritage aspects. It has historical landscapes and buildings that are significant to us, the Goringhaicona and Cochoqua indigenous people. We would be very distressed to see these changed or destroyed by the development of the site. Socio-economic benefits do not compensate for loss of place.
5. **Comment 3:** The Liesbeek River is a tangible part of our heritage, albeit built over and canalised. It is here where our forefathers farmed, where our foremothers were enslaved; this is where our family left from to seek other places to live and farm. We trace our origins as South Africans to this place. Can the Two Rivers (LSDF) preserve this? In its present form certainly not.
6. **Comment 4:** The proposed development at the River Club of predominantly commercial office blocks with only a 4% affordable housing commitment, with a development footprint of 210 000 m² on a 15 hectare site, twice the density of Century City, is seemingly supported via an irregular 'collusion' between the City of Cape Town, the Western Cape Government and the River Club developers. The development will place blocks of between 24 and 47m tall onto the floodplain, on land that is yet to be graded for

its heritage significance. Once it is concreted over, there is no recovering lost intangible heritage.

7. **Comment 5:** This is the most significant heritage battle in South Africa as the site of the proposed development is:

a. The ancestral home to various Khoi groups with a history that dates back to the earliest human habitation on a precinct.

b. Where the first free burgher farms were established in 1657 by the Dutch East India Company (VOC).

c. Where the first Frontier War in 1659 took place between the Dutch and the Khoi Khoi.

d. Where Jan Van Riebeeck erected his iron fence on the banks of the Liesbeeck River.

e. Where the first slaves brought by the VOC from Java; Goa, India; Madagascar and Angola were deployed to till the top soil of these farms.

f. From 1659, a series of wars over time resulted in the permanent dispersal of the Khoi and San, which precipitated into 16 Khoi wars over a 150-year period. The colonial intrusion resulted in the genocide of the Cape San, and sacred animals such as the Cape Lion, Quagga, and Blue Buck and the devastation of the renosterveld in the area.

g. This is a ground zero precinct where the wounds of South Africa's past are seen today in the transgenerational trauma that sits on the Cape Flats and felt across the Southern African landscape.

h. This ancient terrain is of the last natural open space habitats with a specific genius loci of Khoi spiritual cosmological well-being.

i. The site is profoundly rich in precolonial history, occupies a particular place in Khoi cosmology but has also been the site of repeated genocidal actions against indigenous people of the area. It is also a site of considerable environmental significance as an open space and green lung for the City, home to at least one endangered species of animal and the site of significant potential for groundwater recharge to render Cape Town more water resilient in the face of future impacts of Climate Change.

8. **Comment 6:** For that reason, over 25 civic and environmental organisations and a number of key First Nations Paramount Chiefs and indigenous groups announces our combined application for Provincial Heritage Status for the TRUP; and our objection to the proposed River Club development; and to set the record straight on the issue of the River Club development.

9. **Comment 7:** In 2003, the City of Cape Town signed an agreement on the 2003 TRUP framework, the Cape Conservation agreement, but is now in violation of this agreement by changing the District Plan and the LSDF on TRUP for a single development. The City of Cape Town also signed an agreement with the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the TRUP. In the agreement it states environmental conservation of riverine systems and biodiversity. The proposed development is in violation of this agreement. Further, the site of the proposed development is currently on the tentative list of the Department of Culture, Art and Sport

proposed to UNESCO as part of a Liberation and Resistance Route commemorating the Frontier wars and the 1510 battle where the Khoi defeated the Portuguese.

10. **Comment 8:** In our humble opinion the HWC should be leading the process in giving recognition and protection of the site and complete a heritage grading as agreed on.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this policy.

Paramount Chief David Johannes

Cochoqua Kingdom Council

