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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Notice is hereby given that an Initial Study of Environmental Impact and a Draft Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact have been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are available for public review for the following application:

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT #2010-02/ST.THERESE MISSION

A proposal to construct an environmental park development on 17.5 acres at 881 E. Old Spanish Trail in the far southeastern portion of Inyo County, in the community of Charleston View, approximately 20 minutes from the Pahrump, Nevada area. The project will consist of a chapel, a meditation garden to include Stations of the Cross, a restaurant facility with banquet/event capabilities, a visitor's center (to include area tourist information, "green technology" information, a playground, a dog park, and restrooms), enclosed columbarium buildings for the storage of cinerary (i.e., cremation) remains in above-ground vaults, an outdoor garden area for cinerary remains in above-ground vaults, and an on-site caretaker home (two-family unit).

The project proposes to function as a "green" technology showcase destination, employing the highest level of LEED certification for energy- and resource-efficient, environmentally conscious design, and also including: solar energy components incorporated into building design; landscaping to include grey-water recycling for irrigation; extensive drought-tolerant desert landscaping; a greenhouse and tree farm/nursery to grow and maintain vegetation for the project. The project is also proposes to be an area for small religious and cultural festivals.

Chapel capacity is for 100 people. Masses will be heard once a day, with near to full capacity expected on Saturday and Sunday, and about 10-20% capacity (i.e., 10-20 people) on weekdays.

The project is hoping to attract 1200 visitors per month or an average visitor count of about 40 per day. These visitors will consist of chapel goers, diners, and visitors to the columbarium and visitor center.

The 17.5-acre site is currently consists of seven 2.5-acre parcels, which will be merged for the project. Public use roadways bi-secting the site will be abandoned/vacated, as will any unnecessary utility easements.

The project site is designated Resort/Recreational (REC) under the Inyo County General Plan, and is zoned Open Space, 40-acre minimum (OS-40) under the Inyo County Zoning Ordinance. A Conditional Use Permit is required in the OS-40 Zone for the uses proposed.

The 20-day review period for this Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact expires on June 7, 2010. During this period the public may make comments on the proposed project. Inyo County is not required to respond to any comments received after this date. Written comments and all questions should be addressed to the Inyo County Planning Department, P. O. Drawer "L," Independence, CA 93526, faxed to 760-878-0382, or emailed to inyoplanning@inyocounty.us

Copies of the Initial Study and Draft Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact for this project are available for review at the Inyo County Planning Department (168 N. Edwards Street, Independence), all Inyo County Public Libraries, and on the Planning Department's website (www.inyocounty.us/planning/planning.html - under "Current Projects"). **Please Note:** the website contains only the Study, and not any non-electronic attachments/supporting materials.