Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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The Department of the Interior announced today that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is inviting proposals by private capital for development of a full section of Indian land in the heart of Palm Springs, California.

Proposals must conform generally with an over-all plan prepared by a private firm hired by the Indian Tribe. The plan envisions an integrated recreational, business and resort development on a site with high land value. The development is expected to enhance the community as well as increase the Indians' income. Any final decision on the land use must be subject to approval by the Indians who own the property.

The plan provides for a golf course, luxury hotels, residential clubs, a 41-acre shopping center and a community recreation-convention center.

The land to be developed--Section 14, Township 4 South, Range 4 East, San Bernardino meridian--is held in trust by the United States for members of the Agua Caliente Band of Palm Springs Indians. One area of eight acres, including the mineral hot springs, was recently leased for construction of a hotel and bathhouse in conformity with the over-all plan.

Development of the area, Indian Commissioner Glenn L. Emmons explained, has been held back because leasing of such Indian lands was formerly limited by law to a period of five years, Under present legislation leasing of the area will be possible for terms up to 50 years.

The Department will receive proposals until June 30. Special stress is being placed on development of the whole section as an integrated enterprise and on the presentation of a satisfactory timetable covering the various phases of development.

Interested parties should communicate with Mr. C. Z. German, Director of the Palm Springs Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Palm Springs, California, or with Mr. Leonard M. Hill, Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sacramento, California.

All proposals must be accompanied by evidence of financial responsibility commensurate with the magnitude of the project.