

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment (MND/EA) for the proposed Coachella Valley Trails Development Project (Project) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Cal. Public Resources Code sec. 21000 *et seq.* (CEQA).

**Project Name:** Coachella Valley Trails Development Project

**Project Locations:** Public lands near Tinker & Dillon, Pushawalla Canyon; 20<sup>th</sup> & Corkhill, Desert Edge; and the Golf Center Parkway & 38th, Indio.

**Project Description:** The Project includes the development of three trails in areas already disturbed by human activity, such as roads, existing paths, bike routes, OHV use, or target shooting and dumping sites.

- The Pushawalla Canyon Trail includes construction of a trailhead and small unpaved parking lot, and marking and levelling of a trail on an existing 1.4 mile road leading into the existing Pushawalla trail corridor of Joshua Tree National Park.
- The Corkill Road Trail includes construction of a trailhead and small unpaved parking lot, and marking and levelling of a 4.5 mile trail primarily using existing trails or roads.
- The East Indio Hills Trail includes installation of trailhead signage on an existing parking lot and marking and levelling of a 5.0 mile trail using primarily existing social trails, roads and canyons.

At each trail, the Project includes cleanup of existing dumping, blocking of access into sensitive habitat areas, and installation of informational signage.

The Project would be implemented exclusively on conservation, public lands or rights of way. As most of the trails are on land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), BLM was the NEPA lead agency for the MND/EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on September 8, 2016.

**Findings:** Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, and based on information contained in the MND/EA and on an Initial Study Checklist prepared by the Conservancy, the Conservancy has determined that the Proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures detailed in the MND/EA.

**Public Review & Hearing:** Copies of the Draft MND/EA and Initial Study are on file and are available for public review at the Conservancy's office, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 112, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Telephone (760) 776-5026. A public hearing will be held on the Draft MND/EA by the Conservancy's Board of Directors at 3 p.m. on November 14, 2016 at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115, Palm Desert. Written comments will be accepted from October 1, 2016 through the public hearing on November 14, 2016. Comments may be delivered to the public hearing or sent to the Conservancy's address above.