

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**  
**Regular Meeting – March 14, 2022, 3:00 PM**

**VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public may use the following link:

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 916-573-2034, 609685552#](#) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 609 685 552#

*The State of California continues to carry out essential business with modifications as needed to maintain physical distancing and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with AB 361, signed into law September 16, 2021, meetings may be completely virtual and meeting notices may be updated to reflect the move to telephone or web-based meeting. Consistent with AB 361 and to maximize social distancing and public safety, the Conservancy will conduct this meeting by video conference only. Board members, staff, and the public may participate remotely using the video conference information noted above. **Please mute your device or phone unless you are speaking.***

For Questions Contact:

Abriana Elms at [aelms@cvmc.ca.gov](mailto:aelms@cvmc.ca.gov) or (760) 776-5026

## **AGENDA**

**1.0 Call to Order & Introductions**

**2.0 Approval of January 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes** (See Attachment 1.)

**3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

At this time, any member of the public may address the Governing Board on any item not on the agenda. The Board cannot act on an item not on the agenda, but it can place it on the agenda for a future meeting. For items on the agenda, there will be an opportunity to speak when that item is heard. The Chair may limit the time for each speaker. Any written material may be submitted to the person taking minutes.

**4.0 Closed Session**

Pursuant to Government Code sections 11126 (a)(1), 11126(e)(1) and 11126.3(a) the Board may hold a closed session to discuss and take possible action on personnel matters and or receive advice of counsel on pending or potential litigation. In addition, pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c) 7(A) the Board may meet in closed session with its negotiator prior to the purchase or sale of real property by or for the state body to give instructions to its negotiator regarding the price and terms of payment for the purchase or sale. Confidential memoranda related to these issues may be considered during such closed session discussions. The matters scheduled for closed sessions are:

No closed session is scheduled.

**5.0 Action Items - Public Hearing** (if there is any member of the public who wishes to address the Governing Board before action is taken, testimony from the public will be taken prior to a vote.)

- 5.1 Adoption of Resolution 2022-02 in Support of Renaming a Certain Geological Hill Feature in the Thousand Palms Preserve in Recognition of the Profound Cultural Significance of the Site to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. (See Attachment 2.)
- 5.2 Overview of Responses to Climate Resilience and Community Access Grant Program RFP No. CRCA-01 and Recommendations for Grant Awards. (See Attachment 3.)
- 5.3 Adoption of Resolution 2022-03 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to Kounkuey Design Initiative Inc. for its Juntos al Aire Libre Project. (See Attachment 4.)
- 5.4 Adoption of Resolution 2022-04 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Southern California Mountains Foundation for its UCC Coachella Valley Project. (See Attachment 5.)
- 5.5 Adoption of Resolution 2022-05 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the University of California, Riverside for its Coachella Valley Desert Climate Resilience Initiative Project. (See Attachment 6.)
- 5.6 Adoption of Resolution 2022-06 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Friends of the

Desert Mountains for its Eastern Coachella Valley Programs Capacity Building Project. (See Attachment 7.)

- 5.7 Adoption of Resolution 2022-07 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Native American Land Conservancy for its Capacity Building Project. (See Attachment 8.)
- 5.8 Adoption of Resolution 2022-08 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Desert Recreation Foundation for its Outdoor Adventure Experiences for Underserved Youth Project. (See Attachment 9.)
- 5.9 Adoption of Resolution 2022-09 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM) for its Defensores de Tierras Públicas Project. (See Attachment 10.)
- 5.10 Adoption of Resolution 2022-10 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the City of Desert Hot Springs for its Trails, Conservation Outreach and Education Program Project. (See Attachment 11.)

## **6.0 Reports**

- 6.1 Written Reports from Staff. (See Attachment 12.)
- 6.2 Executive Director Report.
  - Trail projects
  - Shumway Ranch improvements
  - Staffing update
- 6.3 Board Member comments and reports from Conservancy member agencies. This is an opportunity for any of the Governing Board Members to present a report on matters on interest regarding the agency he or she represents.

## **7.0 Adjourn to the May 9, 2022 meeting at 3:00 pm.**

This Agenda is available on our website at <http://cvmc.ca.gov>. Anyone with questions about any item on the agenda may contact the Conservancy by phone at (760) 776-5026 or by visiting our office located at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 112, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

**ATTACHMENT 1 – January 10, 2022**

**Agenda Item 2.0** Approval of January 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
January 10, 2022 - 3:00 p.m.

MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCE  
and call-in audio: (916) 573-2034  
Conference ID: 575901780#

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathleen Fitzpatrick, City of La Quinta  
Gary Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs (*Chair*)  
Beatriz Gonzalez, State Assembly Appointee  
Elaine Holmes, City of Indio  
Kathleen Kelly, City of Palm Desert  
Richard Kim, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Rita Lamb, City of Cathedral City (*Vice Chairwoman*)  
Sally Lukenbill, Department of Finance  
Reid Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Steve Quartieri, California State Parks  
Greg Sanders, City of Indian Wells  
Andrea Scharffer, Natural Resources Agency  
Joan Taylor, Governor’s Appointee  
Christopher Tracy, University of California, Riverside  
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee  
Ted Weill, City of Rancho Mirage  
Dennis Woods, City of Palm Springs

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board  
Megan Jacinto, City of Coachella  
V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Karpiak, Executive Director  
Kerrie Godfrey, Associate Director  
Diana Rosas, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Abriana Elms, Staff Services Analyst

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James Danoff-Burg, The Living Desert  
Stacy Gorin, Southern California Mountains Foundation  
Frazier Haney, The Wildlands Conservancy

Tammy Martin, Friends of the Desert Mountains  
John McCarthy, Q3 Consulting  
Ginny Short, Center for Natural Lands Management  
Jack Thompson, The Wildlands Conservancy

NOTE: The State of California continues to carry out essential business with modifications as needed to maintain physical distancing and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with AB 361, signed into law September 16, 2021, meetings may be completely virtual and meeting notices may be updated to reflect the move to telephone or web-based meeting. Meetings still must provide for public observation and input and must still be noticed in advance. This meeting complied with those requirements.

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Chairwoman Kathleen Fitzpatrick declared a quorum with 13 voting members present at 3:00 p.m. Subsequently, two additional board members arrived after the roll call bringing the quorum to 15 voting members present.

2.0 Approval of November 8, 2021, and December 6, 2021, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded (Weill/Taylor) to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021, and December 6, 2021, meeting; the motion passed with two abstentions.

3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No public comments were made.

4.0 Closed Session

No closed session was scheduled for this meeting.

5.0 Action items – Public Hearing

5.1 Elections of Chair and Vice Chair.

A motion was made and seconded (Lamb/Weill/Fitzpatrick) to nominate Gary Gardner as Chair and Rita Lamb as the Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Gardner continued with the meeting.

5.2 Adoption of Resolution 2022-01 approving a Proposition 68 Infrastructure Grant to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens for its Signs of Nature Project.

Jim Karpiak summarized item 5.2 as presented in the staff report. James Danoff-Burg from the Living Desert was available for questions. Ted Weill noted for the record that he is an unpaid advisor at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, but since

the attorney general has advised that as an unpaid board member of a nonprofit organization, no conflict exists so no recusal is required.

James Danoff-Burg added that the sign content will reflect current norms in conservation. More and more communities have a voice in what is being shared, and TLD is grateful to be able to undertake the outreach to achieve that here. He also noted that this project arose from a suggestion by Gary Gardner. Kathleen Fitzpatrick stated that this is a great use of Proposition 68 grant funds, outreaching into our communities to provide both trail information and education about local wildlife habitat. Gary Gardner also echoed Kathleen's excitement about bringing these signs to Desert Hot Springs; an added benefit is to hopefully reduce the dumping problem. There were no further comments or questions.

A motion was made and seconded (Fitzpatrick/Kelly) approving a Proposition 68 Infrastructure grant to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in an amount not to exceed \$53,856.00 for its proposed Signs of Nature project. The motion passed unanimously.

### 5.3 Consideration of Acquisition Priorities 2022.

Kerrie Godfrey summarized item 5.3 as presented in the staff report and Jim Karpiak reviewed the minor changes to the Priorities. There were no comments or questions.

A motion was made and seconded (Taylor/Sanders) approving the attached revised Acquisition Priorities 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

### 5.4 Update and Discussion on the Wildlands Conservancy Whitewater Preserve Flood Control Project.

Jim Karpiak summarized item 5.4 as presented in the staff report. Jack Thompson from The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) and John McCarthy from Q3 Consulting were also in attendance and available for questions.

Jack Thompson stated that Riverside County on behalf of TWC will be submitting the application to CVCC for the Joint Project Review. That takes about 75-days to process, then there is a 90-day period for Riverside County to process the grading permit. TWC estimates they will have permits in July. At that time, they hope to have a better project timeline. Jack noted that fundraising for the project is not completed. Many sources of potential grants are the same resource agencies (e.g., the CA Wildlife Conservation Board and US Fish and Wildlife Service) that are

involved in the permitting reviews, so TWC is currently working on the permits first. Jim Karpiak added that TWC requested a one-year extension on the design grant agreement, but given the permitting uncertainties, the grant will only be extended for approximately 3-months to get a better sense of the entitlement situation. The board had no comments.

#### 5.5 Presentation from the Center for Natural Lands Management on its Desert Pupfish Refuge Habitat Restoration Project and Dos Palmas Core Marsh Burn and Restoration Project.

Diana introduced Ginny Short from Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) who made a presentation on its Desert Pupfish Refuge Habitat Restoration and Dos Palmas Core Marsh Burn and Restoration projects.

James Danoff-Burg added that there are pupfish that are usually present all year just south east of the rail line, and also at the mouth of Salt Creek near the Salton Sea. This is the area where the Living Desert is working to control tamarisk for the benefit of the desert pupfish with CVMC funding. There were no further comments or questions.

## 6.0 Reports

### 6.1 Written reports from staff.

There were no other questions or discussion from the Board.

### 6.2 Executive Director Report.

Jim Karpiak reported on the following:

- Trails Projects – The CVDMRCA existing trails project completed work at Long Canyon and is now at work at the Indio Badlands Trail. Then CVDMRCA will work on trail repairs and signage installation on the next seven trails that have been selected as priorities in Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, and La Quinta, which will most likely take the rest of this season. In the fall, CVDMRCA will move to Kim Nichol, Big Morongo and Coachella Valley Preserve trails.
- Shumway Ranch Improvements – Construction is finally underway, as grading of the road began last week and continued thru this week.

There was a minor issue with the electricity, but otherwise no obstacles.

- JEDI policy preparation – Jim continues to work on the draft JEDI policy in the next couple of months, hoping to bring it to the board this summer for consideration.
- CRCA applications to be considered at the March Meeting – The CRCA applications are due on February 11<sup>th</sup>. At this time staff expects at least 11 applications. Jim is looking for some board volunteers to help review the proposals along with a couple of outside experts. If you are interested, please call and or email Jim. Staff's goal is to make grant awards at the March board meeting.
- Next Board Meeting- The Governor has extended the emergency order that allows us to meet via Teams from January 31, 2022, to March 31, 2022, so the March meeting will be held via Teams and we will wait on further direction from the state about resuming in-person meetings in May.

### 6.3 Board Member comments and reports.

There were no comments or questions.

### 7.0 Adjourn to the March 14, 2022, meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Chair Gary Gardner adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:08 pm.



## **Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Acquisition Priorities 2022**

The Conservancy's mission under state law is to protect lands with "open-space, wildlife, scenic, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational and recreational resources", including both mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands as identified in the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan ("CVMSHCP"). The priorities set forth here update and revise the Acquisition Priorities set by the Conservancy Board in January 2020. The priorities establish initial criteria for evaluating potential acquisitions (or applications for grants for acquisitions), with the understanding that ranking particular properties can be a subjective exercise and that the circumstances surrounding the availability of willing sellers or funds to support purchases will necessitate careful analysis of each site.

All acquisition properties must be within a CVMSHCP Conservation Area or if outside, must directly support the CVMSHCP or significantly assist in fulfilling California's 30 by 30 objectives, and must preserve or promote one or more of the following conservation objectives:

- Biological resources, such as important plant or wildlife habitat or hydrologic features or potential to enhance carbon sequestration
- Cultural resources
- Recreational options consistent with habitat values
- Significant scenic attributes.

In general, properties that fulfill more than one of the conservation objectives will be preferred for acquisition to those that meet only one objective. However, each potential acquisition site is unique and the ultimate decisions on acquisition will rest with the Conservancy's board.

Other attributes or factors in establishing priority:

- Likelihood of imminent or future development
- Potential to expand access to open space for historically underserved communities
- Importance for responding to climate change, such as sites for vegetation projects to enhance carbon sequestration
- Partnership or fund leveraging opportunities
- Potential for future transfer to federal or local agency or non-profit organization
- Adjacent to or near other conservation holdings where cooperative monitoring and management is feasible

- Availability of public agency or nonprofit entity to take and hold title
- Funding options for future management and monitoring
- Rising land values in area
- Potential for use as part of other Conservancy program, e.g., habitat restoration or trail or other outdoor recreational projects
- Other special circumstances, e.g., seller motivation, foreclosure or tax sale offering, property condition, presence of improvements or hazardous materials.

The Conservancy's jurisdiction, which matches the CVMSHCP territory, includes 1.2 million acres, stretching from the Banning pass on the west, to the top third of the Salton Sea on the east, to Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP) on the north and to the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (SRSJNM) on the south. The CVMSHCP has designated 21 habitat conservation areas (map attached as Exhibit A) and protects 40 covered species throughout the Coachella Valley. Under the CVHSHCP, approximately 747,000 acres will eventually need to be conserved.

The following updated list highlights recent progress the Conservancy and its partners have made in key conservation areas and shows where our priorities will be in the coming years:

- ◆ San Jacinto Mountains (including the Chino Cone area) and Santa Rosa Mountains alluvial fans (in La Quinta, Oasis, Thermal, Vista Santa Rosa, Snowcreek and Palm Hills) – contain cultural resources, scenic resources within and adjacent to the SRSJNM and significant habitat values for Peninsular bighorn sheep, along with future recreational options. Major recent acquisitions have included the 640 - acre Shumway Ranch, 114+ acre - Oswit Canyon, 560 acres known as Shadowrock and Angel Cove, 640 acres known as the Schlesinger property, 481 acres in the San Jacinto Mountains above Snowcreek, and a 42+ acre site in Palm Springs known as the Rimrock property. Efforts are continuing to acquire the remaining critical properties in or near the SRSJM.
- ◆ Lake Cahuilla shoreline – protects this unique historical shoreline and important cultural resource area from potential development and connects it to other conservation areas. The Conservancy board has approved several acquisition grants to our partners here, and while purchase activity has slowed down, we remain open to prospective acquisitions. While most major private holdings here have been conserved, efforts are continuing to acquire the remaining critical properties in or near the shoreline.
- ◆ Stubbe Canyon corridor – includes significant wildlife corridor between the San Jacinto and San Bernardino Mountains, sand transport essential areas and high-quality

riparian habitat, as well as trail alignment opportunities. Due to the threat of development, the Conservancy has been very active in this area. As the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail passes through and is adjacent to several of the conservation parcels, there are future trail alignment opportunities as well. We continue to negotiate with willing sellers in this area.

- ◆ Sand transport areas in Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon, Willow Hole, Thousand Palms and Edom Hill areas – where many parcels provide excellent habitat for the Coachella Valley Fringed-Toed Lizard (CVFTL), Coachella Valley milkvetch, Coachella valley round-tailed ground squirrel, and Palm Springs pocket mouse. The Conservancy has focused heavily on acquisitions in these areas, succeeding in acquiring a good portion of the “low hanging fruit” to date. Many remaining sites contain cultural resources and could provide trail alignment opportunities. As there remains a significant threat of development, we are always open to opportunities to acquire additional properties in this area. Recently, using Federal Endangered Species Act funds along with Conservancy bond funds, we facilitated the conservation purchase of 481 acres adjacent to this conservation area and the Sand to Snow National Monument that were proposed for a major housing development.
- ◆ Thermal Canyon/Mecca Hills/Orocopia Mountains Wilderness areas, including portions of the Desert Tortoise/Linkage, West Deception Canyon and the Indio Hills/JTNP Linkage Conservation Areas - which contain significant desert dry wash woodland and significant historical resources due to their proximity to the Colorado River Aqueduct. They also serve potential as linkages for wildlife movement corridors among several significant canyons, and some represent future trail opportunities. Efforts are ongoing as willing sellers approach us desiring to sell their properties in this area. We especially hope that eventually the Paradise Valley site may become available.
- ◆ Indio Hills/ JTNP Linkage Conservation Area – contains habitat, public access to future State Park facilities and quality “wilderness” area and was the location of the Conservancy’s largest partnership acquisition project of approximately 8,881. In recent years, the Conservancy has continued our acquisition efforts in areas bordering JTNP. The long-term goal is to transfer many properties to the Park Service for inclusion into JTNP. The Conservancy is also working to connect trails from the valley to existing JTNP trails.
- ◆ Dos Palmas Conservation Area – contains existing valuable habitat as well as future potential linkages for wildlife movement and connects to other publicly owned land in the Dos Palmas ACEC. Due to the location near the Salton Sea, parcels here may host future cooperative restoration projects using water bond funding. In the last

several years, this has been an active area for acquisition work, which is expected to continue.

- ◆ Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area – features rare wetland habitat and serves protected riparian birds and other species, provides opportunities for habitat restoration or water quality cooperative projects near the Salton Sea and enhances the CVMSHCP efforts to acquire a large area of continuously conserved parcels. Since 2014, we have acquired several hundred acres here, many of which contain wetlands areas that are now being restored with Conservancy funding.

*Approved by the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Board on January 10, 2022.*

## ATTACHMENT 2 – January 10, 2022

**Agenda Item 5.1** Adoption of Resolution 2022-02 in Support of Renaming a Certain Geological Hill Feature in the Thousand Palms Preserve in Recognition of the Profound Cultural Significance of the Site to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

### OVERVIEW

The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) owns the Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve (Preserve), which contains the Thousand Palms and McCallum Oases among 880 acres contiguous with other conserved areas that are collectively known as the Coachella Valley Preserve System. Tucked in the Southeastern portion of the Preserve, in the Thousand Palms area of Riverside County (see location map attached as Exhibit A), is a physical geological hill feature that was named by the dominant community as “Squaw Hill”.

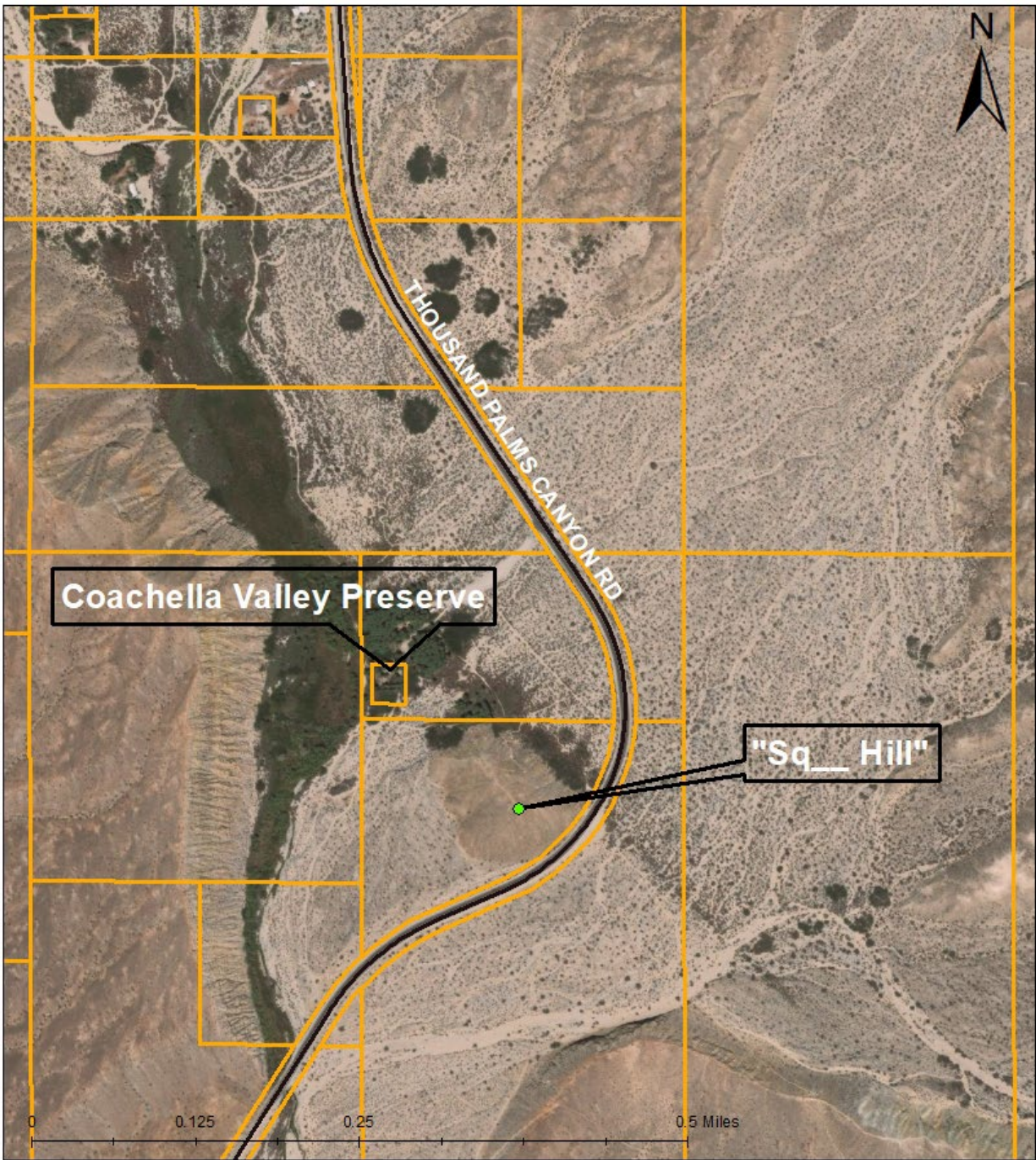
The land within the Preserve is the ancient Cahuilla Village of *Yum ich you* and is of profound cultural value to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the Tribe). The Tribe has recognized Squaw Hill as part of the Cahuilla traditional homelands and has oral and written history and physical evidence that the area is a Cahuilla Village site containing many archeological and cultural values and remains an important place of solitude and cultural importance to the Cahuilla. The Tribe has also found that the name “Squaw Hill” is derogatory and offensive and has adopted a resolution proposing a new name for the site.

CNLM, with the support of the Tribe, is applying to the USGS Board of Geographic Names to legally change the name of the site to the Tribe’s proposed name of *Múmawet*. CNLM has requested expressions of support in response to the Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3404 – Declaring “Squaw” a derogatory term and implementing procedures to remove the term from Federal Usage. Therefore, the Conservancy staff recommends supporting our local partners, the Tribe and CNLM, through the adoption of Resolution 2022-02.

### RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Resolution 2022-02 in support of renaming a certain geological hill feature in the Thousand Palms Preserve in recognition of the fact that the site is of profound cultural significance to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Location Map**



**Legend**

OWNER	CONSERVATION AREA
 CNLM	 Thousand Palms Conservation Area



***Coachella Valley Conservation Commission***

**RESOLUTION 2022-02 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**SUPPORTING THE RENAMING OF A CERTAIN GEOLOGICAL HILL FEATURE  
IN THE THOUSAND PALMS PRESERVE  
IN RECOGNITION OF THE PROFOUND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE  
TO THE AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS**

**WHEREAS** Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM), a local partner of the Conservancy, owns the Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve (Preserve) where there lies a certain geological hill feature, commonly known as "Squaw Hill"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preserve is the ancient Cahuilla Village of *Yum ich you*, and is of profound cultural value to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the Tribe); and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe has recognized the Preserve as part of the Cahuilla traditional homelands, and there is oral and written history and physical evidence that the area is a Cahuilla Village site containing many archeological and cultural values, and remains an important place of solitude and cultural importance to the Cahuilla; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribe finds the name "Squaw Hill" derogatory and offensive and has adopted a resolution proposing a new name for the site; and

**WHEREAS**, CNLM with the support of the Tribe, is applying to the USGS Board of Geographic Names to legally change the name of the site to the Tribe's proposed name of *Múmawet*; and

**WHEREAS**, CNLM has requested expressions of support in response to the Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3404 – Declaring "Squaw" a derogatory term and implementing procedures to remove the term from Federal Usage; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board supports the renaming of the

site as *Múmawet* and encourages the USGS Board of Geographic Names to effect the change as expeditiously as possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER** resolved that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Chair, to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the USGS, the Tribe, and CNLM, and take any other appropriate measures to encourage and support the renaming process.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

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Gary Gardner, Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy



## **ATTACHMENT 3 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.2** Overview of Responses to Climate Resilience and Community Access Grant Program RFP No. CRCA-01 and Recommendations for Grant Awards.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year, the Conservancy received \$2.5 million under a supplemental budget bill (SB 170) to provide local assistance grants that support for climate resilience, wildfire prevention, community access and natural resources protection. At its November 2021 meeting, the board approved a new Climate Resilience and Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. In addition, CRCA specifically seeks to enhance capacity of the conservation and recreation communities in the Coachella Valley by developing staff expertise, organizational resources and community relationships that will continue to provide benefits after the individual grant projects are finished. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **DISCUSSION**

The RFP produced a tremendous response: 20 proposals were submitted, from a wide array of applicants that included long-time Conservancy partners, well-established community-based organizations that we have not previously worked with and recently organized groups. All parts of the Valley were represented, with a heavy focus on the eastern Coachella Valley and Desert Hot Springs areas. In addition, the proposed projects were varied and addressed climate resilience as well as community access objectives.

An ad hoc panel consisting of Rita Lamb, Margaret Park, Kerrie Godfrey, Peter Satin (of CVAG/CVCC), Ellen Trover, Jim Karpiak, Joan Taylor, Diana Rosas and Gary Gardner reviewed and scored the proposals. To avoid some of the problems that arose from the strict numerical rating system required by Prop 1 (e.g., trying to meaningfully distinguish between projects with scores differing by 1 point, or having to award a project that met many objectives but was designed poorly by an understaffed grantee), we set up a more wholistic scoring system. Each proposal was rated based on six attributes:

<p><b>1. CRCA Objectives.</b> The extent to which the project fulfils one or more objectives of the Program and RFP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing climate resiliency</li> <li>• Expanding equity in access to recreation or public education</li> <li>• Improving natural resources and land management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Need.</b> Response to identified local needs, gaps or inadequacies and the extent to which the project would complement CVMC’s mission and prior achievements.</p>
<p><b>3. Viability and Feasibility.</b> Quality and clarity of the project description proposed methods and schedule, cost effectiveness and efficiency.</p>
<p><b>4. Capacity Building.</b> Potential for project to build capacity in the conservation community, make investments that will continue after the grant is completed and sustain itself at some level.</p>
<p><b>5. Grantee Access to Resources.</b> The ability of grantee – through its existing staffing or consultants, volunteers or others - to access the expertise, skills and experience to complete the project, and its track record in prior CVMC or conservation, recreation or education projects.</p>
<p><b>6. Benefits to Underserved Communities.</b> The extent to which the project benefits economically Severely Disadvantaged or Disadvantaged Communities, or communities historically underserved by outdoor recreational or educational amenities.</p>

A five-point scale was used, where 5 is highest and 1 is lowest; 30 was the highest possible aggregate score. Critically, the goal was to identify well rounded proposals that did well in all six categories. The results and summary of the award recommendations are shown on the table below:

Rank	Applicant	Project	Score	Recommendation
1	Kounkuey Design Initiative	Juntos al Aires Libre	25	\$310,000 grant
2	So Cal Mountains Foundation	UCC Center - Coachella	24	\$298,000 grant
	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Desert Museum Renovation	24	Fund using mostly Prop 68 funds after CEQA work
4	UC Riverside/Center for Conservation Biology – Palm Desert	Desert Climate Resilience Initiative	23	\$398,000 grant
	Friends of the Desert Mtns.	Eastern Coachella Valley Programs Capacity Building	23	\$287,000 grant
	Native American Land Conservancy	NALC Capacity Building	23	\$390,000 grant

	Desert Recreation District Fdn.	Outdoor Adventure Experiences for Underserved Youth	23	\$202,000 grant
8	Council of Mexican Federations in North American (COFEM)	Coachella Defensores de Tierras Publicas	22	\$140,000 grant
	City of Desert Hot Springs	Trails Conservation Outreach and Education Program	22	\$128,000 grant
10	City of Coachella	Grapefruit Blvd Urban Greening & Connectivity Project	19	Consider funding from Prop 68 funds
11	Alianza Coachella Valley	Strengthening Env Justice in Eastern CV	18	No funding
12	Cactus to Clouds Institute	Climate Resilience	16	No funding
	Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability	Env Justice and Climate Resilience in the Eastern CV	16	No funding
14	Desert Water Agency	Coachella Valley Conservation Study	16	No funding
	The Living Desert	Pollinator Pathway Project	16	No funding
16	Water Foundation	Salton Sea Partnership Support	15	No funding
	The Living Desert	Capacity Building for Climate Change	15	No funding
	Oswit Land Trust	Land Protection Division of OLT	15	No funding
19	Shumway Ranch.org	Program & Operational Capacity Building	12	No funding
20	CV Innovative Research Institute	Kenaf Proof of Concept Demonstration Project	10	No funding

## FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Ten grants are recommended for awards, namely those ranked from 1 to 10 in the chart above. Eight are to be funded out by CRCA, and those are the subjects of detailed staff reports later on this agenda. The two other projects are capital improvement projects, so we will be recommending them for funding from Proposition 68 on a future agenda:

- Torres Martinez Desert Museum project: The Tribe requested \$400,000 to improve and repair the existing Torres Martinez Wetlands Museum near 72<sup>nd</sup> and Lincoln

and create an “Introduction to Natural Resources” summer youth program to develop the next generation of environmental stewards. The project will renovate the existing facilities and construct new offices to provide the basic infrastructure necessary to safely host community members and staff operations to oversee the new youth program. The project requires CEQA analysis prior to a funding decision, so staff will work with the Tribe to determine the level of review needed and return to the board once that is done. About two thirds of the requested budget is for capital improvements, with the remainder for program costs. We contemplate funding the grant proportionately out of Prop 68 for the capital costs and CRCA for the program costs.

- City of Coachella Grapefruit Blvd Urban Greening and Connectivity Project:  
The City requested \$200,000 to undertake the environmental review necessary for the second phase of its Urban Greening Project that will connect the CVAG Arts and Music Line at Avenue 48/Grapefruit Boulevard with the southern terminus of the CV Link at Avenue 54/Whitewater Channel. This infill project would add outdoor green spaces and outdoor amenities project to the city while at the same time connecting to multiple multi-modal regional transportation projects, which is a major undertaking by the city. Staff will work with the city to address a schedule and other details of the project and return to the board to consider a Prop 68 grant in the future.

The total amount of CRCA funding available for local assistance grants is \$2,375,000; the total amount of the 8 CRCA grants above is \$2,153,000, leaving \$222,000 to fund the program portion of the Torres Martinez Museum project and other smaller projects that CVMC staff will try to develop (e.g., to address climate change-related land management practices, which the proposals mostly did not address).

## **APPLICATIONS NOT RECOMMENDED**

To be sure, virtually all of the applications not recommended for funding at this time came from accomplished applicants that wanted to undertake worthy endeavors. Essentially, however, they did not meet full range of the RFP’s criteria or did not meet them as well as the funded projects. Below are summaries of the proposed projects that were not recommended and the reasons for that determination.

- Alianza/Strengthening Env Justice in Eastern CV Project (rank: 11): Alianza, formerly known as Building Healthy Communities, requested \$200,000 to strengthen its environmental justice campaign’s community organizing, civic engagement and public policy efforts to transform the state’s binary environmental policies. Alianza seeks to promote true sustainability by including economic and

social benefits, starting at the Salton Sea. The project would hire a full-time campaign organizer dedicated to the environmental justice campaign to build community leadership within the impacted communities.

Analysis: Overall, the project received very positive reviews based on its important objectives, focus on disadvantaged communities in the eastern Coachella Valley, and Alianza's excellent reputation. While the project would certainly help the community generally, it would not focus directly on the climate resilience or community access objectives of the RFP. Critically, the project's focus on public policy advocacy regarding the Salton Sea was not a priority of the RFP.

- CactusToCloud Institute/Climate Resilience Project (rank: 12/tied): CactusToCloud Institute (CTC) is a new nonprofit working to build a more resilient and inclusive community in the desert using science-based methods and collaborative partnerships, drawing inspiration from biomimicry and traditional ecological knowledge of peoples and wildlife that have thrived for thousands of years in the desert. CTC requested \$223,750 to update a scoring metric previously developed by CTC to evaluate and encourage climate resilient design choices in landscaped environments, cultivate public participation in species surveys and collaborate with other organizations such as COFEM and UCR on educational endeavors.

Analysis: CTC's approach is innovative and its objective of training more members of the public to be stewards of the environment would certainly help build capacity. However, CTC does not have a track record and seems to be duplicating work that other organizations are doing, including others funded by CVMC. It may be better for CTC to begin by assisting those entities as it seeks to carve out a niche for itself in the conservation community.

- Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability/Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience in the Eastern Coachella Valley (rank: 12/tie): The Leadership Counsel (LCJA) is a social and environmental justice organization that works in partnership with disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin and eastern Coachella Valleys. It requested \$400,000 for a project that would advance environmental justice and climate resilience in the Salton Sea and eastern Coachella Valley regions by organizing and advocating to: (i) include public serving amenities (e.g., park spaces, greening, street furniture, gathering spaces, trails, etc.) in infrastructure projects; (ii) promote healthy and equitable land use policies; and (iii) increase government funding for climate resilient programs and projects.

Analysis: LCJA is a well-regarded organization already active in the eastern Valley, and the proposed project seems to be a very carefully designed grassroots advocacy project. However, the project would serve the entire Sea Area, two thirds of which is out of the Conservancy's jurisdiction, and it focuses on environmental justice and the Salton Sea generally, not directly on climate resilience or recreation access. Finally, public policy advocacy was not a priority of the RFP.

- Desert Water Agency/CV Water Conservation Study (rank: 12/tie): Desert Water Agency (DWA) provides water service to approximately 72,000 customers in Palm Springs and Cathedral City in the western Coachella Valley. It requested \$400,000 to conduct a water conservation study to assess the effectiveness of water conservation programs and expand DWA's outreach and education efforts on behalf of water conservation through an advertising campaign.

Analysis: Both the study and outreach campaign seem very professionally designed, and DWA has the support of the other major water districts in the Valley. The data on effectiveness of various water conservation strategies would certainly be useful for improving those efforts and future planning. The reviewers had two main concerns: first, that the project would not directly address climate resilience and not address recreation at all, and second, as a utility, DWA should be doing this as part of its mission and can resort to financial resources that conservation groups cannot access.

- Living Desert/Pollinator Pathway Project (rank: 12/tie): The Living Desert (TLD) sought \$393,243 to create and restore pollinator habitat along and near the Whitewater River/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel by (i) creating drought-tolerant pollinator gardens using native California plant species on public land or community spaces such as recreation areas, parks or schools; and (ii) offering native pollinator garden workshops for Valley residents to promote use of native plant species. TLD would also focus on five cities that are economically disadvantaged.

Analysis: The project is innovative and well-designed to enhance climate resilience both directly and indirectly, with a focus on disadvantaged communities. The large scope of the project is troubling, however, given its novelty and the fact that site control over the numerous sites would have to be negotiated, so we are concerned that the schedule and budget are not realistic. Given the amount of land that would be involved, it would also require CEQA review before a funding decision could be made. Staff will encourage TLD to consider a smaller pilot project, which could be eligible for Conservancy funding from Proposition 68.

- Water Foundation/Salton Sea Partnership Support (rank: 16/tie): The Sacramento-based Water Foundation, on behalf of the Salton Sea partnership, requested \$325,000 to develop organizational capacity to build resilience against climate change impacts and promote equitable access to outdoor recreational opportunities for under-resourced communities. The partnership is a network of organizations working on the Salton Sea (including Alianza CV, Audubon California, Comite Civico Del Valle, KDI, Sierra Club, Leadership Council and Pacific Institute) that seeks to work collaboratively to include affected communities in the Salton Sea decision making and advocacy.

Analysis: The proposal represents a well-crafted government relations program that would likely be very helpful to the partner organizations. However, public policy advocacy was not a priority of the RFP. Furthermore, the larger issues involved in Salton Sea policy would not contribute as directly to developing local capacity as would other applicants' projects.

- Living Desert/Capacity Building for Climate Change (rank: 16/tie): TLD applied for \$244,787 to implement a comprehensive staff development program to enhance its Conservation Department's project management capacity. The training would be focused on climate change projects, particularly those that serve economically disadvantaged communities, to allow TLD to expand its programs there.

Analysis: TLD has a large, professional staff and has been very effective in completing several projects with Conservancy funding. While this project would improve that capacity, reviewers thought that there are many other organizations who are far behind TLD in terms of staff capacity, and that TLD has other sources of funding which many groups do not have.

- Oswit Land Trust/Land Protection Division (rank: 16/tie): Oswit Land Trust (OLT) was formed in 2016 as part of the successful campaign to preserve Oswit Canyon. It has since grown into a land trust working to continue protecting wildlife habitat and preserving unique, ecologically rich spaces, with a focus on lands outside CVMSHCP conservation areas. OLT requested \$400,000 to create a self-sufficient Land Protection Division by hiring a Land Protection Director, Funding/Development Director and Restoration/Preserve Manager.

Analysis: OLT has brought a great deal of energy and private resources to the conservation community in the last few years. The proposal's objectives match those of the CRCA, but most reviewers questioned the need for much of the work plan, which duplicates efforts made by existing conservation agencies; others were

concerned about how realistic the wide scope of OLT's work plan would be. In addition, the project was not targeted as directly to specific resilience or expanded access activities as were other applicants' projects. Staff will encourage OLT participate in a land management effort that CVMC, CVCC and CVDMRCA are discussing.

- ShumwayRanch.org/Program and Operational Capacity Building (rank: 19): Shumway Ranch.org (SRO) requested \$182,060 to support operational, capacity-building, planning, community engagement, and programmatic funding at the Ranch for the next two years.

Analysis: The project was very general and amounted to a request for operational funds, which SRO should be making more of an effort to raise from other sources. In addition, the proposal would not create new capacity directed toward resilience or expanded community access. Finally, reviewers were concerned that SRO's mission is too broad and not sufficiently concentrated on conservation endeavors.

- CV Innovative Research Institute/Kenaf Proof of Concept Demonstration Project (rank: 20). CVIR is a nonprofit agricultural technology center that requested \$150,000 for a project to demonstrate the value of creating a new sustainable agricultural crop (kenaf) that could be cultivated in the Coachella Valley and bring economic benefits to small family farms. Kenaf is a type of industrial hemp that is water efficient, whose growth supports carbon sinks, and which can be used in many commercial products.

Analysis: The project is interesting and is focused on climate resilience, but it does not expand capacity of the conservation or recreation communities here. Most significantly, reviewers thought that it would take a very significant investment by the agricultural community to create the kind of paradigm change that would be needed to meaningfully affect the Valley's environmental condition or its economy, and questioned where our small amount of funding could jump start that.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff seeks comments and direction from the board.



## **ATTACHMENT 4 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.3** Adoption of Resolution 2022-03 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to Kounkuey Design Initiative Inc. for its Juntos al Aire Libre Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year the Conservancy launched its Climate Resilience & Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Kounkuey Design Initiative, Inc. (KDI) has requested funding for its Juntos al Aire Libre Project (the Project). With the grant, KDI would seek to bridge the divide between Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) residents and outdoor recreational spaces.

For the last 20 months, KDI and Alianza Coachella Valley (Alianza) have led a CVMC-funded community engagement process, in partnership with residents of Mecca and North Shore, to establish a collective vision for a future rooted in equitable access to outdoor recreation, environmental justice, and sustainability. *Juntos al Aire Libre* (meaning “Outdoors Together”) promises to move the region closer to translating this vision into a reality. This Project is the next phase in KDI’s ongoing work to bridge the gap between outdoor recreational sites and ECV residents by rendering the region’s public spaces more accessible, culturally relevant, and productive.

The Project will tap into KDI’s existing networks of local productive public spaces through three interrelated components: 1) a Youth Leadership Academy that will foster advocacy skills, open new economic and educational opportunities, and create a connection to community outdoors spaces; 2) new programming devised through KDI’s participatory engagement process that will be housed at Nuestro Lugar Park, Oasis del Desierto Park, and the Salton Sea State Recreation Area; and 3) the design and fabrication of a Mobile Environmental Access and Education Hub that can serve as a catalyst for programming at public spaces throughout the ECV.

Total cost of the Project is \$370,000.00, with KDI seeking \$310,000.00 from the Conservancy; the remainder will be provided through matching funds from KDI. The Project is scheduled to last two years.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Project meets the objectives of the CRCA program because it specifically supports the key program objective to promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley. Additionally, it addresses the Conservancy's strategic objective to expand access to recreational and educational programs that showcase the wildlife, scenic and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley as well as the objective to promote sustainability and climate change adaptability within the desert and surrounding mountain area.

## **PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Staff is proposing a grant of \$310,000.00 for the Project. KDI has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of the CRCA and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project, which consists of programming, staff work, planning and outreach and the purchase of materials, does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approving a Climate Resilience and & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to KDI for its Juntos al Aire Libre Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-03 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**APPROVING A CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM LOCAL  
ASSISTANCE GRANT TO KOUNKUEY DESIGN INITIATIVE INC.  
FOR ITS JUNTOS AL AIRE LIBRE PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy received an allocation of general funds in the FY 21-22 State Budget to support its Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program (CRCA); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under the CRCA; and

**WHEREAS**, Kounkuey Design Initiative, Inc. (KDI) is a nonprofit organization qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and is therefore eligible to receive funding from the Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, KDI has requested a grant in the amount of \$310,000.00 for its Juntos al Aire Libre which has three components: 1) a Youth Leadership Academy that will foster advocacy skills, open new economic and educational opportunities, and create a connection to community outdoors spaces; 2) new programming devised through KDI's participatory engagement process that will be housed at Nuestro Lugar Park, Oasis del Desierto Park, and the Salton Sea State Recreation Area determined; and 3) the design and fabrication of a Mobile Environmental Access and Education Hub that can serve as a catalyst for programming at public spaces throughout the ECV (collectively, the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would meet the objectives of the CRCA and the Conservancy's mission by expanding access to recreational and educational programs that showcase the wildlife, scenic and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley and by promoting sustainability and climate change adaptability within the desert and surrounding mountain areas and is therefore an eligible use of CRCA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy's purposes as established in Public Resources Code section 33501; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to KDI for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of the CRCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves a local assistance grant to KDI (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$310,000.00 for the Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a CRCA Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the activities funded by the Planning Grant, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the work contemplated by the Planning Grant no later than June 30, 2024, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension.
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the

Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount of the Grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;

4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the work contemplated by the Grant as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the Project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**ABSENT:**

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Gary Gardner, Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

## **ATTACHMENT 5 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.4** Adoption of Resolution 2022-04 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Southern California Mountains Foundation for its UCC Coachella Valley Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year the Conservancy launched its Climate Resilience & Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF) has requested funding for its Urban Conservation Corps - Coachella Valley project. SCMF developed the United Conservation Corps (UCC) in San Bernardino County, which has been very successful there and has also provided assistance to numerous Coachella Valley projects. With this grant, SCMF would fund a new professional senior director position that would implement the SCMF UCC strategic plan to create the Coachella Valley UCC and launch a new science-based desert conservation UCC Climate Corps program (the Project).

The Project consists of several components. The new senior director will work to implement the proposed Coachella Valley Conservation Center to be located in the City of Coachella; the strategic plan for the Center was previously developed by SCMF with Proposition 68 funding from the Conservancy. That work will include coordinating the real estate, entitlement, design and construction aspects of the Center. Separate from that, this funding would support a new science-based desert conservation UCC Climate Corps program that train over 30 youth from Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) to become UCC Climate Corps members, and then support up to 50 work projects in conjunction with conservation partners around the Valley.

Conservation corps services are in huge demand by existing conservation agencies in the Coachella Valley – in fact many of CVMC's projects have run behind schedule because of the lack of works. The new ECV corps member would be trained and they be available for projects such as maintaining recreational trails, restoring desert habitat, litter abatement, invasive weed removal, establishing interpretative programs in recreational

areas, and mapping remote and hard to access land for potential threats to habitat and incompatible human activities that negatively impact conservation (e.g., illegal OHV or dumping). The Project would be designed to reach out to, and engage, ECV communities and support economic development there by employing local youth.

Total cost of the two-year Project is \$589,229.00, with SCMF seeking \$298,000.00 from the Conservancy; the remainder will be provided through matching funds already obtained by SCMF.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Project meets the objectives of the CRCA program because it will significantly improve the conservation community's capacity to manage conserved lands in the face of climate change and enhance habitat values through restoration, cleanup or other routine management or maintenance projects, develop new conservation leadership among young people in the ECV, expand environmental education and outdoor recreational opportunities and support a severely disadvantaged community by providing employment and training opportunities.

## **PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Staff is proposing a grant of \$298,000.00 for the Project. SCMF has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of the CRCA and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project, which consists primarily of staff work, training, programming, planning and design work, does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment. Work done by corps members under this grant would be limited to activities that are categorically exempt from further review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15301 (c), (h) and (i) (maintenance or minor alteration of trails, native growth or wildlife habitat areas) and 15304 (minor alterations to land on officially designated wildlife areas).

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approving a Climate Resilience and & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to SCMF for its UCC Coachella Valley Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-04 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**APPROVING A CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM  
LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS  
FOUNDATION FOR ITS URBAN CONSERVATION CORPS COACHELLA VALLEY  
PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy received an allocation of general funds in the FY 21-22 State Budget to support its Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program (CRCA); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under the CRCA; and

**WHEREAS**, Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF) is a nonprofit organization qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and is therefore eligible to receive funding from the Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, SCMF has requested a grant in the amount of \$298,000.00 for its Urban Conservation Corps Coachella Valley (the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would support a new senior director to coordinate the development an Urban Conservation Corps Center in Coachella and separate undertake train young persons wishing to participate in corps programs and then coordinate their placement in projects of other conservation agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would meet the objectives of the CRCA and the Conservancy's mission by improving management of conserved lands and enhance habitat values though restoration, cleanup or other capital improvement projects and help to preserve biodiversity and natural resources, and improve access to environmental education and outdoor recreational opportunities and is therefore an eligible use of CRCA funds; and



**WHEREAS**, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy's purposes as established in Public Resources Code section 33501; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to SCMF for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project, which consists primarily of staff work, training, programming, planning and design work, does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment, and work done by corps members under this grant would be limited to activities that are categorically exempt from further review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15301 (c), (h) and (i) (maintenance or minor alteration of trails, native growth or wildlife habitat areas) and 15304 (minor alterations to land on officially designated wildlife areas); and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of the CRCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves a local assistance grant to SCMF(Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$298,000.00 for the Project grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a CRCA Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the activities funded by the Planning Grant, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the work contemplated by the Planning Grant no later than June 30, 2024, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension;
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount of the Grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;
4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for

inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;

5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the work contemplated by the Grant as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the Project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**ABSENT:**

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Gary Gardner, Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

## **ATTACHMENT 6 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.5** Adoption of Resolution 2022-05 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the University of California, Riverside for its Coachella Valley Desert Climate Resilience Initiative Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year the Conservancy launched its Climate Resilience & Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Center for Conservation Biology at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) has requested funding for its Coachella Valley Desert Climate Resilience Initiative Project to expand the availability of scientific expertise to the conservation community, facilitate community engagement that promotes native plant communities, climate change and carbon sequestration actions in the desert, and build equity among communities to promote engagement with nature across the Coachella Valley (the Project).

While it is well known that the desert region stores a large reservoir of carbon in its soils, how that can best be preserved in the Coachella Valley is a topic we are only beginning to address. Actions such as removal of invasive species, prevention of further surface disturbance and planting of certain native species can promote carbon sequestration. The Project consists of a new applied research program to improve the knowledge about the climate resilience of the local desert ecological communities and accessibility of ecosystem services to the community, and then identify priorities for investments in land resources.

UCR will work closely with active land management agencies like CVCC, CVMC, the Friends of the Desert Mountains and others in the process, so that information from ongoing land management work can inform the Project. UCR will investigate and identify which areas in the Valley will be most exposed to climate change, or by contrast, which act as important refugia for carrying biodiversity into the future. As part of this process, the Project will identify species and habitats sensitive to climate changes and assess carbon stocks within the Coachella Valley in the context of global greenhouse gas

concentrations. From the data UCR will create a science-based tool that will provide support for decisions on sustainable land management with an understanding of capacity and how to enhance resilience and the distribution of carbon stocks within the region. This data can in turn be used to prioritize land acquisitions and restoration or similar undertakings.

UCR will also coordinate with partner agencies to assist with determining whether the study areas currently used for outdoor recreation by underserved communities are resilient to climate change and improve connections between scientific researchers and the public. The tool produced by the Project will be shared within the community and featured at several climate resilience workshops in the Valley to help build a community that is resilient to climate change and is interested in future projects that involve the community. UCR will provide mentoring and other opportunities for students from underserved communities as part of the Project with the goal of creating a pipeline in to future scientific or conservation-oriented careers.

UCR is seeking \$398,000.00 from the Conservancy. UCR is waiving, and therefore contributing in-kind, its significant amount of indirect costs (up to 50% for many grants), by providing use of UCR's institutional infrastructure at the Jenerette Lab for analysis, the UCR Palm Desert Center to host workshops, and the services of a cadre of volunteers signed up with the Center for Conservation Biology and the Climate Stewards program to assist with education and outreach and biodiversity and carbon field data collection. The Project is scheduled to last two years.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Project meets the objectives of the CRCA program because it specifically supports the stated objective to promote sustainability and climate change adaptability within the desert and surrounding mountain areas within the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Strategic Plan 2020-2025, as well as reaching out to historically underserved communities.

## **PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Staff is proposing a grant of \$398,000.00 for the Project. UCR has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of the CRCA and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The bulk of the Project, which consists of research, staff work, planning, and outreach does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment. Survey work and site inspections are categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15306 (Information Collection for research or resource evaluation efforts that does not result in major disturbance). UCR will pursue all necessary site permits from landowners where relevant.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approving a Climate Resilience and & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to UCR for its Coachella Valley Desert Climate Resilience Initiative Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-05 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**APPROVING A CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM  
LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE FOR  
ITS COACHELLA VALLEY DESERT CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE  
PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy received an allocation of general funds in the FY 21-22 State Budget to support its Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program (CRCA); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under the CRCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Conservation Biology of the University of California, Riverside, (UCR) is an agency of the State of California, and is therefore eligible to receive funding from the Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, UCR has requested a grant in the amount of \$398,000.00 for its Coachella Valley Desert Climate Resilience Initiative Project (the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project is an applied research effort that includes local conservation agencies that are actively managing lands that will expand the availability of scientific expertise relevant to the Valley, facilitate community engagement, which in turn will promote native plant communities and climate change and carbon sequestration actions in the desert, along with building equity in the level of community engagement with nature throughout the Coachella Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would meet the objectives of the CRCA and the Conservancy's mission by promoting sustainability and climate change adaptability within the desert and surrounding mountain areas and is therefore an eligible use of CRCA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy's purposes as established in Public Resources Code section 33501; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to UCR for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, most of the Project consists of research, staff work, planning, and outreach activities, which do not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as they have no potential for physical impacts on the environment, and the inspection and survey portion of the Project is categorically exempt from further review pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15306 (Information Collection for research or resource evaluation efforts that does not result in major disturbance); and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of the CRCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves a local assistance grant to UCR (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$398,000.00 for the Project Grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a CRCA Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the activities funded by the Planning Grant, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the work contemplated by the Planning Grant no later than June 30, 2024, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension;

3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount of the Grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;
4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the work contemplated by the Grant as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the Project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**  
**NOES:**  
**ABSTENTIONS:**  
**ABSENT:**

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Gary Gardner, Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy



## **ATTACHMENT 7 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.6** Adoption of Resolution 2022-06 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Friends of the Desert Mountains for its Eastern Coachella Valley Programs Capacity Building Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year the Conservancy launched its Climate Resilience & Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM) has requested funding for its Eastern Coachella Valley Programs Capacity Building Project (the Project).

Over the past several years, FODM has been actively expanding youth and family-oriented environmental education programs in the eastern Coachella Valley (ECV). The response has been very positive, and the demand for more programs is high. This Project will enable FODM to add three new positions to build program capacity. Specifically, FODM will hire one new bilingual, full time employee who would assist FODM with outreach to local residents whose first language is Spanish, or who speak only Spanish, provide programs in Spanish, and translate outreach and program materials. The second new employee will be a part time specialist with knowledge and understanding of Cahuilla culture and history to assist with projects targeting tribal communities and help with planning and programming at FODM's Lakeshore property in Thermal, which is very important to Cahuilla history. The third new employee will be a part time education and outreach coordinator to enable FODM to expand ECV offerings. In addition, some existing staff will receive training in cultural resources or participate in language workshops to improve their ability to communicate in Spanish.

Total cost of the Project is \$325,000.00, with FODM seeking \$287,000.00 from the Conservancy. FODM will provide the remaining funds using a Conservation Lands Foundation grant. The Project is scheduled to last two years.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Project meets the objectives of the CRCA by expanding FODM's capacity to provide recreational and educational programs that showcase the wildlife, scenic and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley to underserved and economically disadvantaged communities in the ECV.

## **PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Staff is proposing a grant of \$287,000.00 for the Project. FODM has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of the CRCA and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project, which consists of staffing, training and outreach, does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approving a Climate Resilience and & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Friends of the Desert Mountains for its Eastern Coachella Valley Programs Capacity Building Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-06 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**APPROVING A CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM  
LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO THE FRIENDS OF THE DESERT MOUNTAINS  
FOR ITS EASTERN COACHELLA VALLEY PROGRAMS CAPACITY BUILDING  
PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy received an allocation of general funds in the FY 21-22 State Budget to support its Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program (CRCA); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under the CRCA; and

**WHEREAS**, Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM) is a nonprofit organization qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and is therefore eligible to receive funding from the Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, FODM has requested a grant in the amount of \$287,000.00 for its Eastern Coachella Valley Programs Capacity Building Project (the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, this Project will enable FODM to add three new staff positions to build program capacity that is dedicated to expanding the successful education and outreach efforts that FODM has begun to offer in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would meet the objectives of the CRCA and the Conservancy's mission by expanding access to recreational and educational programs that showcase the wildlife, scenic and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley to underserved and

economically disadvantaged communities in the ECV and is therefore an eligible use of CRCA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy's purposes as established in Public Resources Code section 33501; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to FODM for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project consists of consists of staffing, training and outreach, and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of the CRCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves a local assistance grant to FODM (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$287,000.00 for the Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a CRCA Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the activities funded by the Planning Grant, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the work contemplated by the Planning Grant no later than June 30, 2024, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension;
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount

of the Grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;

4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the work contemplated by the Grant as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the Project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**ABSENT:**

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Gary Gardner, Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

## **ATTACHMENT 8 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.7** Adoption of Resolution 2022-07 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Native American Land Conservancy for its Capacity Building Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year the Conservancy launched its Climate Resilience & Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Native American Land Conservancy (NALC) was founded in 1998 on the Twenty-Nine Palms Indian Reservation in Coachella, by an intertribal group leaders interested in acquiring and preserving sacred sites as well as protecting the environment in the Southwest, with a focus on San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. NALC serves the Coachella Valley tribes, including the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, and the Torres Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians. Over the years NALC has helped preserve ancient Cahuilla fish traps around the Salton Sea and a significant site in Coyote Canyon in the Santa Rosa Mountains to competent stewards.

NALC has requested funding for its Capacity Building Project which would add two full-time positions, a Director of Development and Director of Educational Programs (the Project). The Director of Development, together with the Executive Director, will work to expand the capacity of NALC by raising funds to enlarge the acquisition and land management fund, establishing an endowment, and secure future funding for these two positions along after the two-year project is completed. NALC hopes that its development efforts will be successful enough to also hire a full-time lands manager to oversee conserved lands and enhance habitat values on them through restoration and cleanup. The Director of Educational Programs will solidify and build upon NALC's existing Learning Landscapes program, which connects tribal youth to the land and their cultures.

Total cost of the Project is \$482,600, with NALC seeking \$390,000 from the Conservancy.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Project meets the objectives of the CRCA program by greatly enhancing the capacity of NALC to promote equity in access to the outdoors, connect tribal people to the land and their cultures and provide accurate information about local tribal communities and encourage the general public to appreciate Native perspectives and support tribal cultural and environmental preservation causes. Critically, the Project will focus on tribal youth by providing educational programs and services that promote learning about tribal culture, climate change awareness and the importance of tribal action to preserve the environment.

## **PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Staff is proposing a grant of \$390,000 for the Project. NALC has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of the CRCA and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project, which consists of programming and staff work does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approving a Climate Resilience and & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Native American Land Conservancy for its Capacity Building Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-07 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**APPROVING A CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM  
LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN LAND CONSERVANCY  
FOR ITS CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy received an allocation of general funds in the FY 21-22 State Budget to support its Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program (CRCA); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under the CRCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Land Conservancy (NALC) is a nonprofit organization qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and is therefore eligible to receive funding from the Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, NALC has requested a local assistance grant in the amount of \$390,000 to fund its Capacity Building Project (the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would significantly increase NALC's staff capacity for two years by adding a full-time Director of Development and a full-time Director of Educational Programs, which would allow NALC to enhance its acquisition and land management fund, establish an endowment and expand NALC's existing Learning Landscapes program, which connects tribal youth to the land and their cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would meet the objectives of the CRCA and the Conservancy's mission by expanding access to recreational and educational programs that showcase the wildlife and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley and Native American community; and



**WHEREAS**, the Project will promote sustainability and climate change adaptability with tribes within the desert and surrounding mountain areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project will improve management of conserved lands and enhance habitat values through restoration and cleanup, and is therefore an eligible use of CRCA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy's purposes as established in Public Resources Code section 33501; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to NALC for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project consists of staffing for organizational development and educational programs that therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment[; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of the CRCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves a local assistance grant to the Native American Land Conservancy (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$390,000 for the Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a CRCA Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the activities funded by the Planning Grant, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the work contemplated by the Planning Grant no later than June 30, 2024, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension;
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount of the Grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;

4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the work contemplated by the Grant as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the Project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**ABSENT:**

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Gary Gardner, Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

## **ATTACHMENT 9 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.8** Adoption of Resolution 2022-08 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Desert Recreation Foundation for its Outdoor Adventure Experiences for Underserved Youth Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year the Conservancy launched its Climate Resilience & Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Desert Recreation Foundation (DRF) is the nonprofit partner of the Desert Recreation District (DRD), which operates parks and programs in much of the Coachella Valley, especially in economically disadvantaged parts of the eastern portion of the Valley. DRF is requesting funding for its Outdoor Adventure Experiences for Underserved Youth project that seeks to expand access to two existing DRD programs, “Trips for Kids” and “Recreation Outdoor Camp,” for disadvantaged youth (ages 7-17). Both are recently launched endeavors that combine various organized outdoor activities such as biking or hiking with safety and environmental education.

The programs provide deep interactions with, and connections to, natural areas and wild spaces that these youth normally could not access due to financial constraints, lack of exposure, or lack of transportation. As a result, they promote personal responsibility, teach the skills needed to enjoy the outdoors and hopefully promote a lifelong interest in being good stewards of the environment. DRD and DRF actively seek appropriate sites to be able to include individuals with physical disabilities when they select outings or activities.

Currently, both programs are operated on a fee-for-service basis, which precludes many lower income families from participating. DRF is seeking funding in the amount of \$202,000 to expand the program by retaining additional staff and purchasing additional equipment to be able to offer these programs for two years at no cost to at least 180 underserved and economically disadvantaged youth annually (thus reaching 360 in total) (the Project). Youth in all areas of the Valley (i.e., not just those residing in DRD-served jurisdictions) would be eligible to participate.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Project meets the CRCA program objectives by promoting equity in access to outdoor recreation through the Valley and expanding access to recreational and educational opportunities for disadvantaged and underserved youth.

## **PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Staff is proposing a grant of \$202,000 for the Project. DRF has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of the CRCA and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project, which consists of programming, does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approving a Climate Resilience and & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Desert Recreation Foundation for its Outdoor Adventure Experiences for Underserved Youth Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-08 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**APPROVING A CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM  
LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO THE DESERT RECREATION FOUNDATION  
FOR ITS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES  
FOR UNDERSERVED YOUTH PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy received an allocation of general funds in the FY 21-22 State Budget to support its Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program (CRCA); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under the CRCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Desert Recreation Foundation (DRF) is a nonprofit organization qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and is therefore eligible to receive funding from the Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, DRF has requested a local assistance grant in the amount of \$202,000 to fund its Outdoor Adventure Experiences for Underserved Youth Project, which would expand access to two existing, innovative Desert Recreation District programs, "Trips for Kids" and "Recreation Outdoor Camp," for disadvantaged youth (ages 7-17) (the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would meet the objectives of the CRCA and the Conservancy's mission by promoting equity in access to outdoor recreation through the Valley by

expanding access to recreational and educational opportunities for disadvantaged and underserved youth, and is therefore an eligible use of CRCA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy's purposes as established in Public Resources Code section 33501; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to the Desert Recreation Foundation for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project consists of programming and does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of CRCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves a local assistance grant to the Desert Recreation Foundation (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$202,000 for the Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a CRCA Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the activities funded by the Planning Grant, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the work contemplated by the Planning Grant no later than June 30, 2024, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension;
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount

of the Grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;

4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the work contemplated by the Grant as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the Project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**ABSENT:**

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Gary Gardner, Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

## **ATTACHMENT 10 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.9** Adoption of Resolution 2022-09 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM) for its Defensores de Tierras Públicas Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year the Conservancy launched its Climate Resilience & Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM), founded in 2005, empowers immigrant communities to be full participants in the social, political, economic, and cultural life of the United States. It has an office in Coachella, which has a record of providing programs and services that focus on the community's immigration, mental health and higher education needs. More recently, COFEM added conservation advocacy to its local mission in order to better connect the Coachella Valley's Hispanic community to public lands, and in 2021, it hired a full-time Conservation Program Manager in Coachella.

COFEM is requesting a grant to expand its *Defensores de Tierras Públicas* (Public Lands Defenders) program, which works in collaboration with conservation organizations to protect desert landscapes and create educational opportunities for people of low-income and traditionally underserved communities. COFEM proposes to further expand staff capacity by retaining a full-time, two-year conservation fellow to expand its educational program, which includes bilingual public workshops for youth and adults, and camping trips (the Project). The workshops seek to provide participants with basic conservation knowledge and public speaking and leadership skills that will enable them to become the next generation of land stewards and advocates for the protection of California deserts.

The targeted audience for this work is the economically disadvantaged community in the eastern Coachella Valley. Ultimately, the objective of these efforts is to facilitate participation of residents in historically underserved communities in outdoor activities for their recreational, educational and public health benefits, along with encouraging young people to become better citizen stewards of the environment or even consider



conservation careers. COFEM works cooperatively with other conservation programs, including those run by UCR and the CactusToCloud Institute.

Total cost of the two-year Project is \$264,214.93, with COFEM seeking \$140,000 from the Conservancy; the remainder will be provided by COFEM or other grant programs.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Project meets CRCA program objectives because it will expand access to recreational and educational programs that showcase the wildlife and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley, serve economically disadvantaged and traditionally underserved communities near conservation lands, and promote sustainability and climate change adaptability within the desert and surrounding mountain areas.

## **PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Staff is proposing a grant of \$140,000 for the Project. COFEM has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of the CRCA and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project, which consists of programming, staff work, and outreach activities, does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approving a Climate Resilience and & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the Council of Mexican Federations in North America for its Defensores de Tierras Públicas Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-09 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**APPROVING A CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM  
LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO THE COUNCIL OF MEXICAN FEDERATIONS  
IN NORTH AMERICA FOR ITS DEFENSORES DE TIERRAS PÚBLICAS PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy received an allocation of general funds in the FY 21-22 State Budget to support its Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program (CRCA); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under the CRCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of Mexican Federations in North America (COFEM) is a nonprofit organization qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and is therefore eligible to receive funding from the Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, COFEM has requested a local assistance grant in the amount of \$140,000 to expand the staff capacity of its *Defensores de Tierras Públicas* (Public Lands Defenders) program which works in collaboration with conservation organizations to protect desert landscapes and create opportunities for people of economically disadvantaged communities (the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would meet the objectives of the CRCA and the Conservancy's mission by expanding access to recreational and educational programs that showcase the wildlife and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley, serving economically disadvantaged and underserved communities near conservation lands, and promoting

sustainability and climate change adaptability within the desert and surrounding mountain areas, and is therefore an eligible use of CRCA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy's purposes as established in Public Resources Code section 33501; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to COFEM for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project consists of programming, staff work, and outreach activities and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of the CRCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves a local assistance grant to the Council of Mexican Federations in North America (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$140,000 for the Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a CRCA Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the activities funded by the Planning Grant, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the work contemplated by the Planning Grant no later than June 30, 2024, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension.
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount

of the Grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;

4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the work contemplated by the Grant as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the Project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**ABSENT:**

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Gary Gardner, Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

## **ATTACHMENT 11 – March 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item 5.10** Adoption of Resolution 2022-10 Approving a Climate Resilience & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the City of Desert Hot Springs for its Trails, Conservation Outreach and Education Program Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Last year the Conservancy launched its Climate Resilience & Community Access grant program (CRCA) to support projects that enhance desert resilience to climate change and foster conservation of the desert as a carbon sink, promote equity in access to outdoor recreation throughout the Valley or improve natural resources management on existing conservation lands. An RFP was issued November 8, 2021, with responses due by February 11, 2022.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Desert Hot Springs (the City) has requested funding to create its Trails, Conservation Outreach and Education Program project, which would offer a youth recreation outdoor hiking program and a city-wide public outreach program about local outdoor recreational opportunities (the Project).

The youth recreation outdoor hiking program will feature four events per year, in which students from the Desert Hot Springs Recreation Center will be educated on outdoor hiking and other outdoor activities and then be taken on outdoor hiking adventures. The city-wide public outreach campaign will provide written materials to help the public find trails or paths and learn about hazards, permitted uses of the trails and the environmental features they will enjoy during their outings, along with placing trail safety and directional signage.

The City and surrounding area constitute the largest economically disadvantaged area on the western side of the Valley, while at the same time enjoying some of the most scenic and underutilized public lands. The Project complements the City's economic development efforts to establish Desert Hot Springs as a destination for hiking and other outdoor recreational activities.

Total cost of the two-year Project is \$200,000, with the City seeking \$128,000 from the Conservancy; the remainder will be provided by the City.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Project meets the objectives of the CRCA program because it aims to promote equity in access to outdoor recreation for disadvantaged communities and will promote the importance of conservation through outreach and education for youth and the entire community that will immediately impact and continue to impact for years to come.

## **PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Staff is proposing a grant of \$128,000 for the Project. The City has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of the CRCA and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project, which consists of programming, staff work and outreach activities and does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approving a Climate Resilience and & Community Access Program Local Assistance Grant to the City of Desert Hot Springs for its Trails, Conservation Outreach and Education Program Project.

**RESOLUTION 2022-10 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE  
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION  
MARCH 14, 2022**

**APPROVING A CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM  
LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO THE CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS FOR ITS  
TRAILS, CONSERVATION OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for the purpose, among other things, of acquiring and holding, in perpetual open space, mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley and natural community conservation lands, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Resources Code Section 33601(e) provides that the Conservancy may "in order to further the conservancy's purposes as set forth in Section 33501, award grants to cities, counties, resource conservation districts, or nonprofit organizations...."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy received an allocation of general funds in the FY 21-22 State Budget to support its Climate Resilience & Community Access Grant Program (CRCA); and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2021, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under the CRCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Desert Hot Springs (the City) is a local public entity in the County of Riverside, State of California, and is therefore eligible to receive funding from the Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has requested a local assistance grant in the amount of \$128,000 to fund its Trail, Conservation Outreach and Education Program Project, which would establish a youth recreation outdoor hiking program and a city-wide public outreach program about local outdoor recreational opportunities (the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project would meet the objectives of the CRCA and the Conservancy's mission by promoting equity in access to outdoor recreation for disadvantaged communities and promoting the importance of conservation through outreach and education for youth and the entire community, and is therefore an eligible use of CRCA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in furtherance of the Conservancy’s purposes as established in Public Resources Code section 33501; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to the City for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project consists of programming, staff work and outreach activities, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guideline 15378 as it has no potential for physical impacts on the environment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of the CRCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves a local assistance grant to the City of Desert Hot Springs (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$128,000 for the Project Grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a CRCA Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the activities funded by the Planning Grant, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to property, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the work contemplated by the Planning Grant no later than June 30, 2024, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension;
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount of the Grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;



4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the work contemplated by the Grant as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the Project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in his absence the Board Vice Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 14th day of March 2022, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTENTIONS:**

**ABSENT:**

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Rita Lamb, Vice Chair  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

## ATTACHMENT 12 – March 14, 2022

### Agenda Item 6.0 Written Reports from Staff

#### **ACQUISITION AND LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATES**

##### **CVMC PROP 12, 40 AND 84 LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS:**

###### **Mecca Hills/Orocopia Mountains Conservation Area:**

In January 2020, the Board approved a local assistance grant to the Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM) for the acquisition of 20 acres in the Mecca Hills/Orocopia Mountains Conservation Area. Escrow was opened shortly thereafter; vesting issues are being resolved with the private landowner and the transaction is expected to close by March 31, 2022.

###### **Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area:**

In November 2021, the Board approved a local assistance grant to the Oswit Land Trust (OLT) for the acquisition of 118 parcels consisting of 238.56 acres above the City of Palm Springs (usually referred to as a portion of the Palm Hills property). The landowner accepted the contingent offer, title issues are being worked through and escrow is expected to close by June 30, 2022.

##### **CVMC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:**

**Rancho Mirage Easement and Trails Management** – The Conservancy holds a Conservation Easement (CE) on land owned by the City of Rancho Mirage surrounding the Villas of Mirada Development (Mirada) and within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and protected by CE. A connector trail to link the Chuckwalla Trail to the Overlook Trail and keep hikers off Frank Sinatra Drive is part of the CVDMRCA's new trails project recently funded by the Conservancy.

**CVCC/CVMC/FODM Management** – The Conservancy continues to perform monitoring inspections on properties owned by the Conservancy, and we send reminders to grantees where we have provided local assistance grants in support of the CVMSHCP. We are currently engaged in several ongoing management projects, including clean ups, invasive species removal, partnership management, fencing projects and cultural surveys.

**COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CVCC) ACQUISITION MANAGER PROGRAM:** The Conservancy continues to contract with the CVCC as Acquisition Manager. Current acquisition efforts include:

**Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conservation Area:** An appraisal was completed on six parcels in October 2021, offer letters were sent out and two separate landowners consisting of 166.25+/- acres accepted the contingent FMV offers. CVCC board approved the acquisitions at their February meeting and escrow was opened; one transaction requires title clearance but both escrows are expected to close by June 30, 2022.

**East Palm Canyon Conservation Easement:** CVCC executed a Conservation Easement on 5.13 acres of property and provides mitigation in the form of preservation for impacts to Casey's June Beetle habitat as a result of the East Palm Canyon over Palm Canyon Wash Bridge Rehabilitation Project in the City of Palm Springs. The Conservation Easement was recorded on January 11, 2022.

**Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area:** CVCC in collaboration with CVMC and Oswit Land Trust opened escrow on 3500+ acres above the City of Palm Springs (the remaining portion of the Palm Hills property). CVCC and CVMC boards approved the projects at their meetings in November and are working through title issues as there are several owners involved in the transactions; one parcel requires probate, so the closings are expected to occur in phases with the first phase estimated to close by June 30, 2022.

**Thousand Palms Conservation Area:** An appraisal was completed on one parcel requiring a lot split where the landowner would retain a portion and sell the remaining portion to CVCC. An offer was accepted and CVCC approved the project at their meeting in September 2021. Escrow closed on January 31, 2022.

**Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area - Terra Gen and MVPP Rough Step Donations:** To meet rough step requirements under the plan CVCC recently executed donation agreements with two separate wind energy companies. The donations consist of approximately 325.15+/- acres, one of the donations closed escrow on December 30, 2021, and the other donation is expected to close escrow in the coming weeks.

**Tax Default Properties:** CVCC received an annual tax default listing in July 2020 from the Riverside County Tax Collector (RC); after review of the list of parcels, CVCC applied to purchase 13 tax defaulted parcels. RC provided purchase price and availability for 12 of the 13 parcels and on April 2021 the CVCC board approved the purchase of the 12 available parcels. CVCC is waiting for RC to issue the Agreement to purchase the tax-defaulted property.

CVCC received an annual tax default listing in October 2021 from the Riverside County Tax Collector (RC); after review of the list of parcels, CVCC applied to purchase 18 tax

defaulted parcels. CVCC is waiting for RC to provide purchase price and availability for the parcels applied to, RC is expecting to have the information available by April 2022.

### **Appraisals Completed and/or in Process:**

1. Thousand Palms Conservation Area: Completed an appraisal on 885 acres in May 2018; a contingent offer was sent to landowner; landowner declined to sell to CVCC and instead listed the property. In May 2019, the landowner requested to pay to update the appraisal since there had been several recent new comparable sales. The appraisal was completed in April 2020, but the landowner has to date not agreed to sell for the FMV; the property remains listed in the MLS. Appraisal expires April 2022.
2. Upper Mission Creek Big Morongo Canyon – An appraisal was completed on 2 parcels consisting of 73.73 acres. A contingent offer is being discussed with the landowner. Appraisal expires March 2023.
3. Desert Tortoise Linkage Conservation Area – An appraisal was completed on 6 parcels consisting of 195.87 acres. Contingent offers were sent to 5 individual landowners, two separate landowners consisting of 166.25+/- acres accepted the offer and the transactions are now in escrow. Appraisal expires April 2023.
4. Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area – An appraisal was completed on 2 parcels consisting of 29.62 acres above the City of Palm Springs-referred to as Mesquite Ridge. The landowner accepted the contingent offer. The appraisal was approved by the DGS as a requirement to use Federal Section 6 funding with matching funds to acquire this property. Appraisal expires in November 2022.
5. Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area – An appraisal is in work on 3 parcels consisting of 31.82 acres. Upon completion a contingent offer will be discussed with the landowner. Appraisal is due to be completed by March 25, 2022.
6. Thousand Palms Conservation Area – An appraisal is in work on 28 vacant land parcels representing separate ownerships and consisting of approximately 344.86 acres. Upon completion a contingent offer will be discussed with the landowner. Appraisal is due to be completed by March 25, 2022.

7. Upper Mission Creek-Bog Morongo Canyon – An appraisal is in work on 11 parcels representing separate ownerships consisting of 497.46 acres. Upon completion a contingent offer will be discussed with the landowner. Appraisal is due to be completed by March 11, 2022.

## **PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM - PROJECT STATUS**

### **Center for Natural Lands Management**

**Restoration Grant – Dos Palmas Controlled Core Marsh Burn and Restoration Project:** Grantee was not able to complete the work per the Project schedule, so they are working with BLM to develop a plan for a future burn; grantee is expecting to submit a no-cost extension request to complete the work next fall/winter. The current grant term expires March 31<sup>st</sup>, if no grant extension request is received before the term expiration date, then the Project grant funds would revert to the Prop 1 general fund balance.

### **Coachella Valley Conservation Commission**

**Restoration Grant - Wetlands Restoration, Tamarisk Control and Rail Habitat Enhancement at North Shore Ranch Project:** The draft Restoration Plan for Pond 5 including cost and feasibility analysis and determination on permitting requirements was completed and finalized January 2022. Water infrastructures are being upgraded; Grantee will continue with further upgrades and removal of tamarisk resprouts through summer.

### **Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District**

**Infrastructure Grant – Water Management System Project:** The water management system has been installed; contractor is working with manufacturer to ensure the system is operating to full capacity. Grantee requested a no-cost grant extension to work through the technical warranty issues, Project is expected to be completed by April 2022.

### **Coachella Valley Water District**

**Infrastructure Grant – Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project:** Grantee received finance and board approval in January and the grant agreement has been fully executed. Work is commencing with the preparation of a sitting study and technical specifications.

### **Friends of the Desert Mountains**

**Restoration Grant – Santa Rosa Wilderness Restoration Project:** Grantee is working with partner agencies on mapping and data collection methods and protocols. Grantee and BLM are coordinating on efforts to re-treat previously treated areas in Sheep Canyon, Devil Canyon, and Bear Creek, with the assistance of interns and volunteers.

### **Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians**

**Restoration Grant – Santa Rosa Horse Creek Dam and Wetlands Restoration Project:** Brush and vegetation clean up in the creek is underway, planting of native trees is to follow along with the construction and installation of a solar power aerator later in Spring after snow has melted; work is expected to be completed by June 2022.

#### **Sea and Desert Interpretive Association**

**Restoration Grant – Varner Harbor Restoration Project:** Tamarisk removal work for the season has been completed. The project is over budget and grantee is working on a plan to discuss how to remove the remaining tamarisk next season.

**Southern California Mountains Foundation Restoration Grant – Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration Project:** The first season of Tamarisk work has been completed with 4.61 acres of initial treatment and 2.26 acres of re-treatment. The goal was to complete 20 acres of initial treatment and 5 acres of re-treatment. Due to extreme weather conditions and personnel challenges, less work was completed this season than planned, but the next phase is being planned with additional weeks of work in fall 2022.

#### **The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens**

**Restoration Grant – Dos Palmas-Middle Salt Creek Restoration Project:** 9.81-acres of tamarisk have been treated; tamarisk beetle infestation was noted on nearly 100% of resprouts when surveyed in October. Retreatment will be done as needed between out planting of the propagated plants through spring 2022.

#### **The Wildlands Conservancy**

**Planning Grant - Whitewater Preserve Flood Control Improvement Project:** As noted at the January board meeting, a no-cost grant extension was made through May 31, 2022 to address delays that have arisen in the permitting process. Grantee is coordinating with the regulatory agencies on the feasibility and design of the levee, and a follow up site visit with the agencies and CVMC is being scheduled.

#### **The Wildlands Conservancy**

**Infrastructure Grant - Whitewater Preserve Flood Control Improvement Project:** Grantee has reported that while it is discussing funding from several potential sources, it has not received commitments for the approximately \$2.1 million in additional funds needed for the Construction Project, which has a completion date of December 31, 2022. Unexpected delays to the Design Project (discussed in the prior paragraph) will cause delays to the Construction Project schedule which will most certainly require an extension as well once permitting feasibility is established.

#### **Torres Martínez Desert Cahuilla Indians**

**Restoration Grant - Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration Project, Phase 2:** Tamarisk removal work was completed on approximately 25-acres, a CA CCC-crew initiated planting native trees in mid-December and completed the work in late January. Project is in its final stages with Grantee completing the final project report and closing out financial records for final disbursement request which is expected to be under grant budget.

**University of California/Riverside**

**Planning Grant - Salton Sea Crust and Water Quality Remediation Project:** Research activities continue with sample collection and analyses to address where sediments are being deposited, their chemical compositions, and the primary spatial controls on these properties. Additional analyses are being performed to understand trace metal, oxygen, and sulfur contents in the overlying waters as related to ecological impacts and uptake of metals into sediments and possible remobilization into dust when the lakebed is exposed. Efforts are also focused on understanding how mineral crusts are forming in the lake and their relationships to the muddy bottom. Grantee is also working with UCR professor on forecast models for the onset and temporal and spatial patterns of sulfidic gases from the Salton Sea. Information sharing to date includes local presentations and talks at other universities and at international conferences. The group was recently highlighted on the front page of the LA Times. Final report of findings is due by end of March 2022.

**PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS**

**Center for Natural Lands Management - Restoration Grant - Desert Pupfish Refuge Habitat Restoration Project**

**City of Coachella - Planning Grant - Citywide Stormwater Resource Plan Project**

**City of Palm Springs – Restoration Grant - Tahquitz Creek-Triangle Parcel Restoration**

**City of Palm Springs – Restoration Grant - San Jacinto Mountains Watershed Restoration**

**Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – Acquisition Grant - Snowcreek and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Watershed Acquisition**

**Coachella Valley Conservation Commission - Restoration Grant - Willow Hole Canyon & Wash Restoration Project**

**Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District – Infrastructure Grant - Root Water Project**

**Department of Fish & Wildlife – Infrastructure Grant - Dos Palmas Reserve Well Improvement**

**Desert Recreation District – Infrastructure Grant – Flood Control Project at North Shore Park**

**Desert Recreation District - Infrastructure Grant - Flood Control Project at Oasis Park**

**Friends of the Desert Mountains - Restoration Grant - Palm Canyon Restoration Project**

**Mission Springs Water District – Infrastructure Grant - Willow Hole Groundwater Monitoring Wells**

**Palm Springs Cemetery District – Restoration Grant - Invasive Species Removal Project**

**Southern California Mountains Foundation - Restoration Grant - Dos Palmas Restoration Project**

**The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens - Restoration Grant - Desert Pupfish Refugia and Native Habitat Restoration Project**

**Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Planning and Restoration Grant - Phase 1-Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration**

**The Wildlands Conservancy – Planning Grant - Planning & Feasibility for Whitewater Preserve Flood Control**

### **PROPOSITION 68 LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

**Friends of the Desert Mountains – Planning Grant – National Monument Visitor Center Interpretive Improvements – Project completed.**

**Shumway Ranch.Org – Planning Grant – Master Plan - Shumway Ranch Restoration Improvements – Project completed.**

**Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – Design – Planning, Design and Infrastructure Grants – Shumway Restroom and Pavilion Improvements – Restroom and shade structure improvements at Shumway Ranch – In process. Grading work and site work is underway, with the restrooms scheduled to be complete in early April and the pavilion by the end of May.**



**Friends of the Desert Mountains – Design Grant** – Signage/Interpretive Improvements Project - National Monument Visitor Center – First phase of project completed; subsequent phases will not be undertaken by the Friends at this time.

**Kounkuey Design Initiative – Planning Grant** – SDAC - Restoration of the Salton Sea State Recreation Area – In process. KDI resumed public outreach activities, including community meetings and is now completing initial plan drafts. The relatively small construction portion of project was cancelled, and the grant term was extended until May 2022 to accommodate delays cause by the COVID crisis.

**Center for Natural Lands Management – Infrastructure Grant** – C.V. Preserve Fencing Grant – Project completed.

**Friends of the Desert Mountains – Planning Grant** – C.V. Trails Facilities and Signage Inventory and Assessment Grant – Project completed.

**Southern California Mountains Foundation – Planning Grant** – Design and Strategic Plan for C.V. Conservation Corps Center Project – the Strategic Plan portion of this project has been completed.

**The Living Desert – Infrastructure Grant** – Greening the Desert Project – In process. The Living Desert onsite portion of the project has been completed. An extension was granted until 6/30/2022 to complete east valley portion of the signage program.

**Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – Infrastructure Grant** – Signage - In Process - CVDMRCA has hired its project coordinator, who began work on September 7. Work in the field has commenced and is on schedule.

**Shumway Ranch.Org – Planning Grant** – Completed.

**Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – Planning Grant** – In Process - Trails Environmental Assessment. CVDMRCA has selected Aspen Environmental Group to complete the environmental assessment and they are expected to begin work later this month. BLM has initiated the NEPA process for the portions of the land under federal ownership.

## **CVMC FUND STATUS**

### **Remaining Conservancy Bond Resources:**

After the approval of the grants on the March 2022 agenda above, the Conservancy will have the following available funds from its Prop 1, Prop 12, Prop 40, Prop 68 and Prop 84 allocations (which include adjustments for funds returned when land purchased with CVMC funds is subsequently sold to another government agency for conservation and the grantee repays CVMC):

Proposition 1	\$1,926,706.28
Proposition 12	\$ 0.00
Proposition 40	\$ 3,246.47
Proposition 68	\$4,921,992.23
Proposition 84	\$5,954,734.94
<b>Total Remaining Funds</b>	<b>\$12,806,679.92</b>

### **CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND COMMUNITY ACCESS (CRCA) GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS:**

Supplemental budget bill (SB 170) provided an appropriation to the Conservancy in the amount of \$2.5 million, of which, \$2,375,000.00 can be used for local assistance grants for climate resilience, wildfire prevention, community access and natural resources protection. The appropriation also includes up to \$125,000.00 which can be used for Conservancy administrative expenses over a 3-year period. Assuming approval of the grants on the March 2022 agenda above the remaining balance available for local assistance will be \$222,000.

### **COACHELLA VALLEY FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT - SECTION 6 GRANT BALANCES:**

The Conservancy applied in conjunction with USF&WS and CDFW for funds to acquire the Mesquite Ridge property adjacent to the National Monument near the South Lykken Trail in Palm Springs; a grant in the amount of \$1,165,327.00 was awarded. Oswit Land Trust and The Trust for Public Lands obtained an EEM Grant for the local match amount, so the Conservancy will not be providing funding or participating further in the acquisition.