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For immediate release:

**Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
Awards Climate Resilience and Community Access Grants to Five Local Nonprofits**

Palm Desert, May 8, 2023. – Today the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Board of Directors approved five local grants under its Climate Resilience and Community Access (CRCA) Grant Program. Now in its second year with funding from the state of California General Fund, this year's competitive round considered applications from organizations that seek to enhance access to outdoor recreation or education and combat climate change using nature based and sustainable methods.

The board made a total of \$1,224,000 it is first round of funding for 2023:

- The Living Desert received \$292,000.00 for its Native American Conservation Workforce Development Program, which will provide paid workforce development training for young tribal members in western and traditional methods of conserving habitat, improving sustainability and mitigating the effects of climate change on local lands, thus preparing them for conservation careers with federal, state, or non-profit employers.
- The Southern California Mountains Foundation was awarded \$296,000.00 to support its Urban Conservation Corps - Climate Corps Program. The Program recruits young adults residing in economically disadvantaged parts of the Eastern and Northern Coachella Valley for conservation and outdoor recreation work training, and then employs them on projects around the Valley such as land restoration or trail building. The grant supports three full time corps members for one year, along with providing specialized training for all corps members in composting methods.

- The Native American Land Conservancy is receiving \$136,175 for a multi-faceted pilot project that utilizes nature-based solutions to address climate change-related challenges in land management. The project will provide educational workshops to enhance access for local Native American tribes at culturally sensitive sites, restore natural lands that contain sacred artifacts, and offer the general public education about the cultural history of the Valley and ways to protect tribal lands.
- The California Alliance for Community Composting/Desert Compost received \$200,000 for its Composting for Climate Resilience Project. This project will expand community composting and offer school-based programs and general public education about composting and other sustainable practices over the next two years.
- The City of Palm Desert was awarded \$300,000 to complete the design and specifications for a new 27-acre regional park with passive recreational facilities along I-10 and adjacent to Dinah Shore and Gerald Ford Drives. The new park will be based on innovative, sustainable practices used around the country, weaving natural features and processes into the improvements while also supporting habitat for local plants and animals. The park's location will offer easy access for residents of the entire Valley, and the City will work with other local parks in communities underserved by larger parks to integrate programming.

In addition to these awards, the Conservancy staff is working with other applicants to award an additional \$1.5 Million remaining in the Conservancy's CRCA budget.

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