

**COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**  
**Regular Meeting – February 10, 2025, 3:00 PM**

***73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 101***  
***Palm Desert, CA 92260***

**Tele-conference locations:**

State of California, Resources Agency  
715 P St.,  
Serpentine Room on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor (NRHQ 20-103)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Fish & Wildlife  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd. Suite C-220  
Small Conference Room  
Ontario, CA 91764

**AGENDA**

**1.0 Call to Order & Introductions**

**2.0 Approval of November 18, 2024, 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/Informational 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.)

Action Item 5.1 Approval of New Meeting Location for 2025.  
(See Attachment 2.)

Action Item 5.2 Election of Officers 2025. (See Attachment 3.)

Informational Item 5.3 Coachella Valley Conservation Commission- Ordinance update. (See Attachment 4.)

Informational Item 5.4 Friends of the Desert Mountains- presentation on Native Plants. (See Attachment 5.)

**6.0 Reports**

6.1 Written Reports from Staff. (See Attachment 6.)

6.2 Executive Director Report.

- Conservancy updates for FY 2024/2025.

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 of interest regarding the agency he or she represents.

**7.0 Adjourn to the May 12, 2025, Meeting at 3:00 p.m.**

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 120, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

**Contact:**

This meeting notice and agenda, and any available meeting materials, will be posted on the Conservancy webpage. These records are also available for public inspection upon request.

If you need further information prior to the meeting, please contact the Conservancy by phone at (760) 776-5026 or by visiting our office located at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 120, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

**Public Participation:**

In accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, all meetings of the Conservancy Board are open to the public. Discussion and action may be taken on any item on the Conservancy's meeting agenda. The time and order of agenda items are approximate and subject to change at the discretion of the Chair or their designee to facilitate the effective transaction of business.

Government Code section 11125.7 provides the opportunity for the public to address each agenda item during discussion or consideration by the Conservancy or prior to the Conservancy taking any action on said item. The Conservancy will provide members of the public with an opportunity to make public comments during the meeting on any issues before the Conservancy, but the Chair or their designee, at their discretion, may apportion available time among those who wish to make public comment during the meeting. Individuals may also make public comment to the Conservancy regarding items not on the agenda; however, the Conservancy cannot discuss or take official action on these items during the same meeting. (Gov. Code, §§ 11125, 11125.7, subd. (a).)

Members of the public may but are not obligated to provide their names or personal information as a condition of observing or participating in the meeting.

**Accessibility:**

Meetings of the Conservancy are open to the public. Public meetings are held in barrier free facilities that are accessible to those with physical disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you are a person with a disability requiring disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, or if you require documents be made available in an alternate format or another language or require an interpreter at the meeting, please contact the Conservancy by phone at (760) 776-5026 or by visiting our office located at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 120, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. You may also dial a voice TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech Communications Assistant at 7-1-1.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Action Item 2.0** Approval of November 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
(CVMC)  
REGULAR MEETING  
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 101  
Palm Desert, California

**DRAFT MINUTES**

November 18, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.

**Teleconference locations:**

State of California, Resources Agency  
715 P St.  
Mojave Room on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor (NRHQ 20-104)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

3602 Inland Empire Blvd. Suite C-220  
Small Conference Room  
Ontario, CA 91764

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Enrique Arroyo, California State Parks  
Patricia Cooper, Riverside County  
Denise Delgado, City of Coachella  
Steve Downs, City of Rancho Mirage  
Madeline Drake, CA Natural Resources Agency  
Gary Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs  
Grace Garner, City of Palm Springs  
Beatriz Gonzalez, State Assembly Appointee  
Elaine Holmes, City of Indio  
Rita Lamb, City of Cathedral City (*Chairwoman*)  
Deborah McGarrey, City of La Quinta  
Jennifer Norris, Wildlife Conservation Board  
Savana Saubel, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee  
Evan Trubee, City of Palm Desert  
Bruce Whitman, City of Indian Wells

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Stephen Benson, Department of Finance

Richard Kim, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee  
Christopher Tracy, University of California, Riverside

CVMC STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth King, Executive Director  
Diana Rosas, Associate Director  
Maximiliano Ochoa, Project Coordinator  
Abriana Elms, Administrative Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. James Danoff-Burg, The Living Desert  
Troy Strange, Desert Recreation District  
William Brent Felstead, Coachella Valley Desert and  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
David Neubert, Sacramento location, member of the public  
Francis Coats, Sacramento location, member of the public

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Lamb declared a quorum with 13 voting members present and called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Subsequently, three additional Board members (Delgado/Gonzalez/Holmes) arrived after the roll call bringing the attendance to 16 voting members.

2.0 Approval of July 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded (Gardner/McGarrey) to approve the July 8, 2024, minutes; the motion passed with three abstentions (Arroyo/Drake/Whitman).

3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

A member of the public, Francis Coats from Yuba City, who attended the publicly noticed California Natural Resources Agency teleconference location, expressed concern during public comment regarding the Agua Caliente Land Back Donation and reservation of the public's right to fish on public land.

4.0 Closed Session

No closed session was scheduled for this meeting.

5.0 Action/Informational Items- Public Hearing

Action Item 5.1 Approval of Meeting Schedule and New Meeting Location for 2025.

Chair Lamb gave a brief overview of the 2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule and Proposed New Meeting Location.

Two board members (McGarrey/Gardner) asked about the audio quality and Wi-Fi accessibility. Executive Director King responded that staff could test the audio quality and Wi-Fi accessibility.

**Vote:** A motion was made and seconded (Downs/Trubee) approving the proposed meeting schedule and new meeting location for 2025, subject to review the audio quality and Wi-Fi accessibility. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 5.2 Adoption of Resolution 2024-08 Consenting to and Approving a Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant to the Desert Recreation District for its Thermal Park Water-Efficiency Infrastructure Project.

Executive Director King summarized item 5.2 as presented in the staff report.

Board member Trubee asked if the field/park will be a multi-purpose field. Troy Strange with the Desert Recreation District responded that it will be a multi-purpose park/field.

**Vote:** A motion was made and seconded (Trover/Cooper) approving a Proposition 1 local assistance grant to the Desert Recreation District in an amount not to exceed \$847,285 for its Water-Efficiency Infrastructure Project at the new Thermal Community Park. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 5.3 Adoption of Resolution 2024-09 Consenting to and Approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens for its Desert Hot Springs Pollinator Pathway Project.

Project Coordinator Ochoa summarized item 5.3 as presented in the staff report.

Board member Gardner asked if there is a list of schools that this project will be working with. Dr. James Danoff-Burg with The Living Desert responded that a consultation would ensue with the communities to identify the best locations. Chair Lamb asked what the school's responsibility would be. Dr. Danoff-Burg responded that the curriculum has been established, and the next step moving forward would be to meet with the teachers and implement the curriculum. Board member Trubee asked if this is a feasibility study or implementation grant. Dr. Danoff-Burg responded that it is an implementation grant. Board member McGarrey and Board member Trover both voiced their support and approval for this project.

**Vote:** A motion was made and seconded (Trover/McGarrey) approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance grant to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in an amount not to exceed

\$133,981 for its Desert Hot Springs Pollinator Pathway project. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 5.4 Adoption of Resolution 2024-10 Consenting to and Approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for its West Deception Canyon Trail Project.

Project Coordinator Ochoa summarized item 5.4 as presented in the staff report.

It was noted for the record that Board member McGarrey serves on the Friends of the Desert Mountains board, but the Attorney General has advised that as an unpaid board member of a nonprofit organization, no conflict exists so no recusal is required. Board member Trubee asked if usage has been measured pertaining to the foot traffic. William Felstead with the Coachella Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority responded that there is some traffic noting that the trail is located on a pre-existing trail. Board member Whitman asked if there is a parking lot. Mr. Felstead responded that there is plenty of parking in the area. Chair Lamb asked about the development of the switchbacks being accomplished by an experienced trails crew. Mr. Felstead responded that the switchbacks portion would be completed by the Urban Conservation Group (UCC). Board member Trover also commented expressing her support for this project.

**Vote:** A motion was made and seconded (Trubee/Trover) approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance grant to the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in an amount not to exceed \$17,998 for its West Deception Canyon Trail Project. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Item 5.5 Presentation by The Living Desert.

Chair Lamb introduced Dr. James Danoff-Burg, Vice President of Conservation for the Living Desert, who gave a brief informational presentation on The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens that included information on native plant species in the Valley and best practices for cities to help green the desert.

Chair Lamb asked if there is a list of appropriate native plants that can be provided to the Planning Commissions when planning different developments. Dr. Danoff-Burg responded that there is a list that he can provide. Board member Gardner commented that the signage is great. Board member Gardner also commented that the Palm Tree skirts may require trimming for safety purposes near city streets. Dr. Danoff-Burg encouraged maintenance of palm fronds where possible. Board member Holmes also commented on the environmental problems open trash can lids cause. Board member Holmes commented

that the City of Indio has implemented an ordinance giving a small grant to property owners to build enclosures and keep the trash cans covered and locked.

## 6.0 Reports

### 6.1 Written reports from staff.

Associate Director Rosas and Project Coordinator Ochoa gave a brief update on Acquisition and Land Management Updates.

Board member McGarrey asked about the Willow Hole Appraisal and if the cost is more than the purchase price. Associate Director Rosas commented that it is not. Executive Director King and Associate Director Rosas both commented that only fair market value can be offered. Board member Gardner expressed concerns directed towards Oswit Land Trust. Executive Director King responded that if a project with Oswit were to be considered, the Conservancy will ask Oswit Land Trust to attend to answer questions.

### 6.2 Executive Director Report.

Executive Director King reported on the following:

- 2020/2025 Strategic Plan- Preparing for CVMC's next Strategic plan by doing a look back at the past five years.
- Proposition 4- Proposition 4 was passed by California voters on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The bond goal is to help fund climate projects, and \$11M was allocated to CVMC.
- Lands Management- Mr. Felstead continues to make progress through the CVDMRCA on fence repairs, removing illegal dumping, and moving the Board approved 4 trails project forward.
- Housekeeping- CVMC will be moving to a new office and requires a new board meeting location as the current building is set to be demolished, and a tool called an Owl has been purchased to improve teleconferencing at Board meetings.

Board member Delgado commented that some of the disadvantaged communities might not have the staff to apply for these grants but there are many areas who are in need.

### 6.3 Board member comments and reports.



Board member Gardner acknowledged and congratulated Joan Taylor on receiving the Minerva Hoyt California Desert Conservation Award for Conservation of California's Deserts. There were no board comments or questions.

7.0 Adjourn to the February 10, 2025, meeting.

Chair Lamb adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:20 p.m.

## ATTACHMENT 2

**Action Item 5.1    Action Item 5.1    Approval of New Meeting Location for 2025.**

### **BACKGROUND**

With the current Board meeting building being demolished, staff propose holding future Board meetings at the Palm Desert Council Chamber (Address: 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260).

### **DISCUSSION**

Proposed new meeting location:

Staff propose to hold future Board meetings at the Palm Desert Council Chamber.

Address: 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260

2025 Meeting Schedule:

*February 10, 2025*

*May 12, 2025*

*August 11, 2025*

*November 17, 2025*

All meetings begin at 3:00 p.m.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend approval of the new meeting location for 2025.

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

**Action Item 5.2** Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2025.

### **BACKGROUND AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board needs to elect officers for the calendar year 2025. The terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions are one year, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33506. Also under that statute, the only Board members eligible to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair are the City, County and Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians representatives, and the appointees of the Governor, the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Speaker of the Assembly. By state law, the representatives of the various state agencies are not eligible.

Rita Lamb and Steve Downs have served for the past year as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

## **ATTACHMENT 4**

**Informational Item 5.3** Presentation by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission on Ordinance Development for a Ranger Program.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM** – No Board action required.

### **BACKGROUND**

This item will provide an update on the Climate Resilience Community Action Grant-funded Cooperative Ranger Initiative Project awarded to CVCC. The update will include a general program overview, as well as progress on grant timelines, stakeholder engagement, ordinance development, program design, and other key implementation milestones.

## **ATTACHMENT 5**

**Informational Item 5.4** Presentation by The Friends of the Desert Mountains on Native Plants.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM** – No Board action required.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Friends of the Desert Mountains will provide an update on their CVMC-funded Lecture Series: Native Planting in the Coachella Valley. Updates will include information about partnerships, attendance, and survey results. Friends will also give an update on their work for the Coachella Valley Native Planting Guide. They will share the successes and challenges of implementing this program in 2024 and discuss future opportunities for collaboration.

## ATTACHMENT 6

**Informational Item 6.1** Written Reports from Staff

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM** – No Board action required.

### **Item A. ACQUISITION AND LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATES**

**Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC)/Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC)/Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM) Management** – The Conservancy continues to perform monitoring inspections on properties owned by the Conservancy and oversee grantees whose local assistance grants have been provided in support of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP).

**CVCC ACQUISITION MANAGER PROGRAM** - The Conservancy continues to contract with CVCC as Acquisition Manager. Current acquisition efforts include:

**Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area:** In November the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/- 2.0 acres. Escrow is expected to close end of February 2025 due to probate issues that must be resolved prior to closing escrow.

**Thousand Palms Conservation Area:** In November the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/- 13.0 acres. Escrow is expected to close at the end of February 2025.

**Upper Mission Creek Conservation Area:** In November the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of one parcel consisting of +/-5.03 acres. Escrow is expected to close by the end of February 2025. Additionally, in January the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of one parcel consisting of +/- 148.5 acres. Escrow is expected to close by the end of March 2025.

**Tax Default Properties:** In October 2022, CVCC applied to purchase 48 tax defaulted parcels; eight of the parcels have been redeemed and are no longer available for purchase. In June 2024 the County provided purchase price quotes for the remaining 40 tax default parcels, totaling approximately +/-147.32 acres, the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of the remaining parcels and passed a resolution accepting the purchase price quotes. CVCC has been awaiting the Tax Sale Agreement from the County but in early January, staff received a letter with notice that the Tax Sale was being postponed

due to potential legal risks and that the purchase price quotes were no longer valid. Staff is working with the County on clarification of the notice and new process to proceed with acquisition of tax defaulted properties.

In December 2023, CVCC applied to purchase 12 tax defaulted parcels; one parcel has been redeemed and is no longer available for purchase. In September 2024, the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of the remaining 11 tax default parcels, totaling approximately +/-135 acres, and passed a resolution accepting the purchase price quotes. CVCC has been awaiting the Tax Sale Agreement from the County but in early January, staff received a letter with notice that the Tax Sale was being postponed due to potential legal risks and that the purchase price quotes were no longer valid. Staff is working with the County on clarification of the notice and new process to proceed with acquisition of tax defaulted properties.

In February 2024, CVCC applied to purchase 12 tax defaulted parcels; two parcels have been redeemed and are no longer available for purchase. CVCC is awaiting purchase price quotes for the remaining 10 parcels that have not been redeemed.

In December 2024, CVCC applied to purchase 12 tax defaulted parcels; two parcels have been redeemed and are no longer available for purchase. In early January, staff were notified that appraisals are now required when applying to purchase tax defaulted parcels. Staff are working with the County on clarification of the notice and new processes to proceed with the acquisition of tax defaulted parcels.

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

1. **Desert Tortoise Linkage Conservation Area:** In August 2024, an appraisal was completed on 11 parcels, consisting of +/-803.97 acres, representing separate ownerships. Offer letters were delayed as staff completed other priority acquisitions. Offer letters are now being prepared to be sent by end of February; should property owners accept CVCC's offers and sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement, staff will initiate the acquisition process. Appraisal Expires September 2025.
2. **Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area:** In March 2024, an appraisal was completed on five parcels, consisting of +/-222.72 acres, representing separate ownerships. One owner accepted CVCC's contingent offer for the purchase of +/- 48.31 acres which closed escrow 12/10/2024. Staff are continuing to pursue discussions with the other owners on the remaining 174.41 acres for potential acquisitions. Appraisal expires April 2025. Additionally, in August, an appraisal was completed on two parcels,

consisting of +/-15.8 acres, representing separate ownerships. One owner accepted CVCC's contingent offer for the purchase of +/- 5.03 acres, escrow is expected to close by end of February 2025. Staff is continuing to pursue discussions with the other owners of the remaining +/- 10.77 acres for potential acquisition. Appraisal expires September 2025. Currently staff is working on a request for proposal for 12 additional parcels in this Conservation Area, consisting of +/-294.25 acres; the goal is to have an appraisal report completed by March 2025.

## **Item B. GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM – ACTIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS**

#### **Grant No. – Grant Award – Grantee & Project Name (Project Type)**

#### **P010027 - \$428,615.00 - The Wildlands Conservancy – *Whitewater Preserve Flood Control Improvement Project (Planning)***

The Wildlands Conservancy is in the final phase of the permitting process. The permitting agencies are working to finalize the habitat mitigation plan permits, which are required for county permits. The process now includes a parallel effort at the behest of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to have endangered mountain yellow legged frogs translocated to the preserve as soon as possible through a US Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Benefit Agreement; permits are expected to be completed by April 2025.

#### **P010034 - \$182,264.00 - Southern California Mountains Foundations – *Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration Project (Restoration)***

The Urban Conservation Corp (UCC) is in their third year of restoration work in the Palm Canyon Watershed, to date the crew has reported completing a total of 26.3-acres of initial treatment and 25.2-acres of re-treatment. The UCC will be prioritizing work with focus on the treatment of the northern boundary of the project area and the difficult terrains which consist of 14 acres. The team will strive to re-treat 15 acres and an additional 25 acres of initial treatment.

#### **P010036 - \$525,000.00 - City of Indio – *Flood Prevention Project at Jackson Street and Ave 50 (Infrastructure)***

The City has completed the design project and is working through the necessary right of way acquisitions. The project has been split into phases to start work within current available right of way as Phase 1. Phase 2, including the drainage improvements, will be completed as soon as the rights of way are secured.



**P010040 - \$847,285.00 - Desert Recreation District – Water Efficiency Project (Infrastructure)**

The Desert Recreation District's Water Efficiency Project will construct water-efficient infrastructure prior to groundbreaking of the entire park. The project will remove an agricultural concrete irrigation pipe, install the sewer line, a water meter, a catch basin, and hydrant. The work is expected to break ground in February 2025.

**PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS**

34 PROJECTS COMPLETED TO DATE

\$5,134,762.35 TOTAL AMOUNT OF COMPLETED PROJECTS TO DATE

**Grant No. – Grant Award Amount – Grantee & Project Name (Project Type)**

P010003 – \$111,407.56 – Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – Mesquite Restoration & Groundwater Monitoring (Restoration)

P010004 – \$150,000.00 – Desert Recreation District – North Shore Park Flood Improvements (Infrastructure)

P010005 – \$15,647.39 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – Palm Canyon & Santa Rosa Watershed Restoration (Planning)

P010005 – \$111,043.69 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration (Restoration)

P010005 – \$90,515.15 – Friends of the Desert Mountains– Santa Rosa Mountains Watershed Restoration (Restoration)

P010006 – \$95,156.53 – Mission Springs Water District – Willow Hole Groundwater Monitoring Wells (Restoration)

P010008 – \$59,154.42 – City of Palm Springs – Phase 1 – San Jacinto Mountains Watershed Restoration (Planning)

P010008 – \$803,611.00 – City of Palm Springs – Phase 2 – San Jacinto mountains Watershed Restoration (Restoration)

P010009 – \$50,000.00 – City of Palm Springs – Tahquitz Creek – Triangle Parcel Restoration (Restoration)

P010010 – \$7,532.56 – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Phase 1 – Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration (Planning)

P010010 – \$169,580.71 – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Phase 1 – Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration (Restoration)

P010011 – \$7,178.00 – Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District – Root Water (Infrastructure)

P010012 – \$150,000.00 – California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Dos Palmas Reserve Artesian Well Project (Restoration)

P010014 – \$26,440.71 – The Wildlands Conservancy – Phase 1 – Planning for Whitewater Preserve Flood Control (Planning)

P010015 – \$135,884.00 – Center for Natural Lands Management – Desert Pupfish Refuge Habitat Restoration (Restoration)

P010016 – \$200,461.00 – City of Coachella – City-Wide Stormwater Resource Plan Project (Planning)

P010017 – \$215,911.82 – University of California/Riverside – Salton Sea Crust and Water Quality Remediation (Planning)

P010018 – \$16,330.75 – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Phase 2 – Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration (Restoration)

P010018 – \$236,728.07 – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Phase 2 – Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration – Implementation (Restoration)

P010019 – \$500,000.00 – Desert Recreation District – Flood Control Project at Oasis Park (Restoration)

P010020 – \$501,305.10 – Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – Snow creek Watershed Acquisition – Lamb Property (Acquisition)

P010022 – \$71,841.00 – Southern California Mountains Foundation – Dos Palmas Restoration Project (Restoration)

P010023 – \$54,000.00 – Palm Springs Cemetery District – Invasive Species Removal Project (Restoration)

P010024 – \$132,318.65 – Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – Wetlands Restoration, Tamarisk Control and Rail Habitat Enhancement at North Shore Ranch (Restoration)

P010025 – \$101,556.35 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – Desert Pupfish Refugia and Native Habitat Restoration (Infrastructure)

P010026 – \$152,707.71 – Salton Sea Authority – NSBYC Harbor Rehabilitation & Flood Infrastructure (Infrastructure)

P010028 – \$96,832.57 – Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians – Santa Rosa Horse Creek Dam and Wetlands Restoration Project (Restoration)

P010029 – \$57,865.14 – Center for Natural Lands Management – Core Marsh Burn and Restoration Project (Restoration)

P010030 – \$72,136.27 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – Dos Palmas Middle Salt Creek Project (Restoration)

P010033 – \$54,100.00 – Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District – Water Management System (Infrastructure)

P010035 – \$235,000.00 – Coachella Valley Water District – Groundwater Monitoring Well Project (Infrastructure)

P010037 – \$232,000.00 – Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians – Monitoring Wells Project Section 33 (Infrastructure)

P010038 – \$160,000.00 – Coachella Valley Water District – DHS and Mission Creek Subbasin Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project (Infrastructure)

P010039 – \$60,515.00 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – San Felipe Creek Desert Pupfish Pond Project (Infrastructure)

## **PROPOSITION 68 GRANT PROGRAM – ACTIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS**

### **Grant No. – Grant Award – Grantee & Project Name (Project Type)**

**P680015 – \$125,000.00 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – *Environmental Review of its Coachella Valley Trail System Expansion Project (Planning)***

The CEQA documentation has been completed. Conservancy staff is working with the consultant on next steps to obtain site control and entitlements.

**P680020 – \$152,057.00 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Conservation Greenhouse Project (Infrastructure)***

The Conservation Greenhouse Project is to construct a dedicated greenhouse to germinate and propagate native plants for use in projects that will improve climate resilience and community access to nature across the Coachella Valley. The construction has been delayed as additional city permits were required prior to pouring of the concrete.

The permits were obtained in mid-December, the project is now moving forward with the concrete slab base. Once the base is completed, the construction of the greenhouse will continue with assembly of the frame, and installation of the tables and interior features. Grantee expects the completion of the greenhouse to be completed by end of March 2025.

**P680023 – \$150,000.00 – City of Indio – *Parking Lot Improvement Project at Indio Hills Badlands Hiking Trailhead (Infrastructure)***

The Parking Lot Improvements at the Indio Badlands Trailhead project will increase and enhance the visitor experience by improving the trailhead infrastructure and parking facility. The project progress has been delayed and required design revision and resubmission due to an inactive irrigation line owned by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The City of Indio has submitted the redesigned plans to work around the irrigation line and is now awaiting CVWD's and USBR approval on the revised plans; construction will commence as soon as the plans are approved.

**P680024 – \$133,981.00 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Desert Hot Springs Pollinator Pathway Project (Infrastructure)***

The Desert Hot Springs Pollinator Project will create 10 to 20 pollinator gardens using native plants on a total of less than five acres at the City of Desert Hot Springs. The project includes education curriculum for students and community members to care for plants, maintenance and watering needs. The Conservation Department has begun to compile list of priority plants species. The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens has also started to reach out to potential schools and other potential partners to discuss the possibility of working together on this initiative.

**P680025 – \$17,998.00 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – *West Deception Canyon Trail Project (Infrastructure)***

The West Deception Canyon Trail Project consists of installing approximately 200 feet of trail switchbacks, trail signage, and markers to enhance hiker safety and avoid erosion on a 4.3-mile loop trail. Grantee has started with the procurement of materials for the project, contract for the workforce and scheduling work to be completed.

**PROPOSITION 68 GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS**

19 PROJECTS COMPLETED TO DATE

\$2,304,891.10 TOTAL AMOUNT OF COMPLETED PROJECTS TO DATE

**Grant No. – Grant Award Amount – Grantee & Project Name (Project Type)**

P680002 – \$28,947.00 – Friends of the Desert Mountains– Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center Improvement (Planning)

P680003 – \$49,000.00 – Shumway Ranch Org. – Shumway Ranch Master Site Plan (Design)

P680004 – \$74,500.00 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – Shumway Ranch Restoration and Infrastructure (Planning)

P680005 – \$81,730.00 – Friends of the Desert Mountains– Design-Interpretive-Improvement Project – National Monument Visitor Center (Design)

P680006 – \$232,182.57 – Kounkuey Design Initiative, Inc. – Salton Sea State Recreation Area Renovation & Restoration (Planning)

P680007 – \$139,550.00 – Center for Natural Lands Management – Coachella Valley Preserve Fencing Project (Infrastructure)

P680008 – \$25,917.24 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – Coachella Valley Trails Facility and Signage Inventory and Assessment Project (Planning)

P680009 – \$38,530.77 – Southern California Mountains Foundation – Coachella Valley Conservation Corps Center Project (Planning)

P680010 – \$57,500.00 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – Shumway Initial Improvements and Preparations Design Plans Project (Design)

P680011 – \$245,274.29 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – Greening the Desert (Infrastructure)

P680012 – \$100,000.00 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – Trails and Interpretative Signage Project (Infrastructure)

P680013 – \$565,475.00 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – Grant for Shumway Restroom and Pavilion Improvement Project (Infrastructure)

P680014 – \$35,000.00 – Shumway Ranch Org. – Preservation Plan for Historic Structure Improvements at Shumway Ranch (Planning)

P680016 – \$53,856.00 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – Sings of Nature: Connecting DHS to Nearby Nature (Infrastructure)

P680017 – \$200,000.00 – The City of Coachella – Environmental Review of its Grapefruit Boulevard Urban Greening and Connectivity Project (Planning)

P680018 – \$88,479.47 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – East Valley Pollinator Pathway Demonstration Project (Infrastructure)

P680019 – \$35,000.00 – Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District – Feasibility Study for new Regional Park in the Coachella Valley (Planning)

P680021 – \$163,850.00 – Oswit Land Trust – Biological Resources Assessment and Environmental Review for the Prescott Preserve (Planning)

P680022 – \$90,098.76 – Center for Natural Lands Management – Restroom Replacement Project (Infrastructure)

### **CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM – ACTIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS**

#### **Grant No. – Grant Award – Grantee & Project Name (Project Type)**

**CRCA0002 – \$407,277.00 – Southern California Mountains Foundations – *UCC Coachella Valley Center (Capacity)***

The project consists of hiring a Senior Director that will lead and carry out the Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF) Urban Conservation Corp (UCC) Strategic Plan to move the Coachella Valley Conservation Center forward and to launch a new science-based desert conservation UCC Climate Corps program that will plan and carry out 50 work projects and train over 30 young people from Eastern Coachella Valley to become UCC Climate Corpsmembers. Status: The SCMF UCC hired a Site Director for the Indio Office. Additional partnerships and project opportunities are continuously being sought.

**CRCA0003 – \$398,000.00 – UC Riverside/Center for Conservation Biology – Palm Desert – *Desert Climate Resilience Initiative (Capacity/Research)***

The project consists of retaining a full-time experienced land manager to establish and operate a sustainable land management program for two-and-one-half- years. Status: Dr. Sweet continues to coordinate activities and project meetings along with Dr. Jenerette. The Junior specialist/program continues to work on outreach/engagement with partners, as well as field activities.

**CRCA0004 – \$405,700.00 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Eastern Coachella Valley Programs Capacity Building (Capacity)***

The Project consists of expanding the Friends of the Desert Mountains 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 Eastern Coachella Valley. Status: The Director of Education; the Indigenous Community Liaison, and the Translation Specialist have been diligently

working and implementing several educational classes; conducting research and applying for grants to continue funding the education programs.

**CRCA0005 – \$390,000.00 – Native American Land Conservancy – *NALC Capacity Building (Capacity)***

The Project consists of funding the Native American Land Conservancy's Capacity Building Project which will add two-full time positions. Both positions will work to enhance the capacity of NALC to promote equity in access to the outdoors, connect tribal people to the land and their cultures. Status: There has been a rapid pace of work product as the Director of Development and Education and Stewardship Programs Manager have continued to work on maintaining funder and volunteer networks, exploring new and innovative ways to connect with the community to share NALC's work, attend and host program outreach events and identifying ongoing support for new programs and acquisitions.

**CRCA0006 – \$202,000.00 – Desert Recreation District Foundation – *Outdoor Adventure Experiences for Underserved Youth (Capacity)***

The Project consists of expanding two youth programs by retaining additional staff and purchasing additional equipment to be able to offer these programs for two years at not cost to at least 180 underserved and economically disadvantaged youth annually. Status: This reporting period an Amendment was done to extend the existing term of the grant agreement through 12/2025. The project is on track and in alignment with the amended schedule.

**CRCA0007 – \$280,000.00 – Council of Mexican Federation in North America (COFEM) – *Coachella Defensores de Tierras Publicas/ Public Land Defenders (Capacity)***

The Project consists of expanding the Council of Mexican Federation's Defensores de Tierras Publicas 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, by retaining a full-time, two-year conservation fellow to expand its educational program. Status: The Conservation Fellow has been actively engaged in various outreach and advocacy efforts, contributing significantly to ongoing initiatives within the Public Land Defenders program and the Protect California Deserts coalition.

**CRCA0009 – \$215,000.00 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Conservation and Recreational Authority – *Land Management Capacity Building (Capacity)***

The Project consists of establishing a program to assist non-profit, tribal or public entity owners of conservation land management related public works and related services. Working to promote and implement joint efforts among adjacent conservation owners

related to monitoring, maintenance enforcement, recreational, and public education endeavors. Status: New staff was hired and has been working on the implementation of the four new trails with an emphasis of maintenance of various sites.

**CRCA0010 – \$52,950.00 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Desert Lake Shore PH2 (Planning)***

The Project consists of further development of the Desert Lake Shore Property as a conservation and education center in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Status: The Friends of the Desert Mountains conducted a site survey with KDI's hired consultants. Friends of the Desert Mountains also met with the CEQA consultant to provide updates on project design. Clean ups were conducted, one on January 10<sup>th</sup> and the other on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Dried out plant debris and palm fronds were removed to reduce the risk of brush fire and to improve the appearance of the site. KDI is finalizing the site design and presenting it to the Friends of the Desert Mountains board for feedback.

**CRCA0011 – \$292,000.00 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Native American Conservation Workforce Development Program (Capacity/Training)***

The Project consists of providing paid training in the conservation field for up to forty Native Americans, ages 18-34, from disadvantaged communities. The program will teach habitat conservation and climate resilience approaches to mitigate the effects of climate change on Native American communities and their lands using Western and Traditional methods. Status: Continuous work has been done with Tribal communities across the Coachella Valley and surrounding areas is ongoing. Milestones and Deliverables completed during this reporting period: Introduction to ecological restoration. Experience developing SMART objectives for restoration plans. Development of public speaking skills. In-depth exploration of different ways of knowing how to integrate them. Introduction to the scientific method and foundations of Western science. Experience conducting a literature search. Introduction to animal care and husbandry.

**CRCA0012 – \$296,000.00 – Southern California Mountains Foundation – *UCC Coachella Valley Center (Capacity/Training)***

The Project consists of supporting education, training, and internship programming for three full-time corps members. Funding will support the conservation workforce and allow members to participate in regional conservation projects and community networks. Status: Three new corpsmembers have been hired. The internship program with CVCC had its first UCC intern transition into a permanent position with American Conservation Experience as a Logistics Coordinator.

**CRCA0013 – \$136,175.00 – Native American Land Conservancy – *Nature Based Solutions Projects (Capacity)***



The Project consists of funding the Native Americans Land Conservancy's (NALC) Nature Based Solutions Project. Funding will support multi-pronged approaches to mitigate the effects of climate change faced by disadvantaged Native American communities. This will also support educational workshops and invasive species removal and restoration at Willow Hole Conservation Area. Status: NALC is working on a few outreach events scheduled for the next couple of months.

**CRCA0014 – \$200,000.00 – Desert Compost – *Composting for Climate Resiliency (Capacity)***

The Project consists of two new community composting sites to be created and an existing site to be expanded. In addition, the grant will support programming on composting and waste reduction for up to sixteen schools, and presentations on composting and soil regeneration for four community organizations. Status: To date, the project has diverted over 64,000 lb. of materials from the landfill. Desert Compost leadership has fostered team building and knowledge sharing amongst students. Additionally, the Prescott Preserve Soil Building and Carbon Drawdown project has diverted over 80,000 lb of materials from the landfill, with 29,000 lb being diverted in Q7 alone. Q7's net greenhouse gas reduction benefit was 5.11 metric tons. A yield of 7.44 cubic yards of finished compost was spread and applied across the Preserve by Oswit Land Trust (OLT) volunteers to create carbon sinks and regenerate the soil. On October 3, 2024, the Desert Compost team and leaders from the Torres Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians launched the community composting program on the reservation. DC assisted TMDCI in preparing the grounds, rebuilding old compost piles, and recomposing them with new materials according to the pathways for the reduction of pathogen standards.

**CRCA0015 – \$300,000.00 – City of Palm Desert – *North Sphere Regional Park (Design)***

The Project consists of developing a conceptual design and preparing construction documents for a 27-acre regional park in an unimproved portion of Palm Desert between I-10 and Dinah Shore/Gerald Ford Drive. Status: City of Palm Desert staff are continuing to meet with the planning and design consultant, Interwest, on a bi-weekly basis. The capital improvement department provided input leading to an updated conceptual design that improves traffic flow and accessibility to the park. The changes to the conceptual design have caused a need for additional engagement prior to development of construction plans.

**CRCA0016 – \$41,087.00 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Native Plant Education Program (Capacity/Education & Outreach)***

The Project consists of developing a native planting guide for community distribution and implementing a bilingual lecture program advocating nature-based solutions and urban greening methods focused on economically disadvantaged communities and youth. Status: Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM) staff have delivered eleven Native Planting lectures at various locations throughout the Coachella Valley. FODM has about 130 plants left to give out and are currently in conversation with the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition to plan a large class and distribute at one of their single-family home developments so that the remaining trees can be distributed. FODM has had some delays with the Native Planting Guide, the final draft will be reviewed with the Mojave Desert Land Trust to verify content.

**CRCA0017 – \$245,372.00 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Land Acquisitions and Management (Capacity)***

The Project consists of establishing and operating for up to four years a revamped Land Acquisition and Management Program. Status: The Land Administrator is well underway with ongoing GIS Deployment, land monitoring and management and inquiring on Potential Land Acquisitions from willing sellers.

**CRCA0018 – \$200,000.00 – Oswit Land Trust – *Sustainable Land Management (Capacity)***

The Project consists of retaining a full-time experienced land manager to establish and operate a sustainable land management program for two-and-one-half years. Status: The land manager position is currently vacant; however, Oswit Land Trust (OLT) has posted the job opportunity and is trying to fill the position.

**CRCA0019 – \$273,877.00 – UC Riverside/Center for Conservation Biology – Palm Desert – *WUI Assessment (Capacity/Research)***

The Project consists of evaluating the impact of human activities such as off highway vehicle (OHV) use on conservation land and developing and providing resources to help land managers and planners better prevent landscape disturbances on conservation lands. Status: UC Riverside-Palm Desert continued coordination on objectives and timeline. A meeting with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission was had to discuss the study and patters of OHV use.

**CRCA0020 – \$372,712.00 – Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – *Cooperative Ranger Initiative for Conservation Lands***

The Project consists of funding a Law Enforcement Coordinator position for three years and legal or consultant fees to develop and organize CVCC's Cooperative Ranger Initiative for Conservation Lands (the Program). Status: the CVCC Conservation Ranger Coordinator has been diligently working on the creation of the ordinance for the ranger

program. There are many legal questions which staff is working to coordinate attorneys to clarify next steps on the ordinance process.

**CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS**

2 PROJECTS COMPLETED TO DATE

\$438,000.00 TOTAL AMOUNT OF COMPLETED PROJECTS TO DATE

3850CRCA0001 – \$310,000.00 - Kounkuey Design Initiative – Juntos al Aire Libre

3850CRCA0008 – \$128,000.00 – City of Desert Springs – Trails Conservation Outreach and Education Program (Design/Outreach & Education).

**Item C. CVMC FUND STATUS**

The Conservancy’s current available funding balances are as follows:

Proposition 1	\$2,210,575.09
Proposition 68	\$3,591,072.90
Proposition 84	\$6,296,369.71
CRCA FY22/23	\$ 0
<b>Total Remaining Funds</b>	<b>\$ 12,098,017.70</b>

**Coachella Valley Federal Endangered Species Act – Section 6 Grant Balances:**

In 2022 the Oswit Land Trust received a commitment of \$456,420 to partially fund a proposed acquisition adjacent to the Indio Hills Palms Conservation Area which is being spearheaded by the Oswit Land Trust (OLT). The Department of General Services approved the appraisal report in April and a grant in the amount of \$1.4M was approved at the Wildlife Conservation Board meeting May 23, 2024.

The OLT in coordination with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) are working on a new application for a proposed acquisition adjacent to the Willow Hole Conservation Area. The total estimated project cost is \$10,500,000. OLT is requesting a \$2,500,000 federal grant from the Fiscal Year 2025 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) Nontraditional Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program. The federal grant is being proposed with a match by non-federal funding from the Conservancy, Riverside County and the Wildlife Conservation Board totaling \$8,000,000 (76.19 percent) of the total project cost. The results of the application for federal funding have not been released yet.