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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy invites Public Comment on the Proposed Grant Program and Initiates Tribal Consultation Period.

Palm Desert, CA – July 10, 2025 – Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy announces a public comment period for its proposed PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM and will also begin a formal tribal consultation process with federally recognized Tribes potentially impacted by the grant program. These efforts highlight the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy's commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and effective collaboration in serving all communities, including tribal governments.

"The Proposition 4 Grant Program will bring \$11 million in conservation funding to public agencies, tribes, and nonprofit organizations in the Coachella Valley over the next five years," said Elizabeth M. King, Executive Director of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. "Funds will be available for land acquisitions, habitat enhancement and restoration projects, and public access improvements that tackle our most urgent climate needs," she continued. "The public comment period allows stakeholders to provide valuable input on the proposed grant program, while the tribal consultation is a crucial step in upholding our government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations and addressing their unique needs and concerns."

The proposed PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM funded by the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 enacted by the voters on November 5, 2024, aims to improve public improvements throughout the State of California. The primary objective aims to tackle our most urgent climate needs by investing in preventing devastating wildfires, providing clean, safe drinking water and boosting water supplies, and protecting California's iconic landscapes. Proposition 4 provides a special provision where up to 50% of the funding is to be invested to assist communities that have been historically underserved.

Public Comment Period:

The public comment period for the PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM will run from July 15, 2025, to October 15, 2025. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the proposed grant program guidelines, eligibility criteria, and priorities. Comments can be submitted electronically via communication@cvmc.ca.gov, or by mail to 62-400 Cook St. Suite 219, Palm Desert. CA 92260.

A virtual Public Comment session is planned for September 2, 2025, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams. Please RSVP by August 27, 2025, to communication@cvmc.ca.gov.

Tribal Consultation:

In accordance with the State of California Tribal Consultation Policy, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will begin a formal tribal consultation period to engage in direct dialogue with federally recognized Tribes regarding the potential impacts of the PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM on tribal communities. This consultation period will run concurrently with the public comment period, beginning on July 15, 2025, and concluding on October 15, 2025.

A Virtual Tribal Consultation session is planned for September 2, 2025, at 2:00 PM, Via Microsoft Teams. Please RSVP by August 27, 2025, to communication@cvmc.ca.gov.

To ensure meaningful engagement, tribes are also encouraged to submit written comments and recommendation by October 15, 2025, to communication@cvmc.ca.gov or mailing at 62-400 Cook St. Suite 219, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

Additional Information:

More details regarding the proposed grant program and the tribal consultation process, including the full text of the proposed program guidelines and the tribal consultation plan, can be found on the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy's website at www.cvmc.ca.gov.

About: The mission of the Conservancy is to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley: the scenic, wildlife, cultural, geologic, and recreational resources that make the Coachella Valley such as splendid place for people and all other lifeforms with which we share this special place. The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy is a state agency established in 1991 and directed by a 20-member governing board. Conservancy is an exceptional example of local communities, state elected officials, non-profit organizations, and business and environmental interest working together for the good of all.