

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
Regular Meeting – July 8, 2024, 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.,
Mojave Room on the 20th floor (NRHQ 20-104)
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 May 13, 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 Adoption of Resolution 2024-07 consenting to and approving the donation by the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) of one parcel in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. (See Attachment 2.)

Action Item 5.2 Approving the Annual Budget of the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Fiscal Year 2024-25. (See Attachment 3.)

Informational Item 5.3 Presentation by Desert Recreation District. (See Attachment 4.)

6.0 Reports

6.1 Written Reports from Staff. (See Attachment 5.)

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 September 9, 2024, meeting.

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

Agenda Item 2.0

DRAFT MINUTES

May 13, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.

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

Tele-conference locations:

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Enrique Arroyo, California State Parks
Stephen Benson, Department of Finance
Patricia Cooper, Riverside County
Denise Delgado, City of Coachella
Steve Downs, City of Rancho Mirage (*Vice Chair*)
Madeline Drake, CA Natural Resources Agency
Gary Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs
Grace Garner, City of Palm Springs
Elaine Holmes, City of Indio
Richard Kim, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Rita Lamb, City of Cathedral City (*Chairwoman*)
Deborah McGarrey, City of La Quinta
Jennifer Norris, Wildlife Conservation Board
Margaret Park, Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee
Christopher Tracy, University of California, Riverside
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee
Evan Trubee, City of Palm Desert
Bruce Whitman, City of Indian Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beatriz Gonzalez, State Assembly Appointee

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Karpiak, Executive Director
Diana Rosas, Associate Director
Maximiliano Ochoa, Project Coordinator
Abriana Elms, Administrative Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathleen Brundige, Coachella Valley Conservation
Commission
Tammy Martin, Friends of the Desert Mountains
Oscar Ortiz, Friends of the Desert Mountains
Lynn Sweet, University of California Riverside

1.0 Call to Order and Adjournment to Closed Session

1.1 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 matter scheduled for closed session is:

Appointment of Executive Director.

1.2 Return to Open Session

Chair Rita Lamb declared a quorum with 19 voting members present at 3:10 p.m.

1.3 Announcement of Closed Session actions

Chair Rita Lamb announced that the board unanimously voted to appoint Elizabeth M. King as the new Executive Director for the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

2.0 Approval of March 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024, meeting; the motion passed unanimously.

3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No public comments were made.

4.0 Action items – Public Hearing

- 4.1 Adoption of Resolution 2024-06 Approving the Initial Study for the Four New Coachella Valley Trails Project, adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, prepared for the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and approving the project.

The chair opened the public hearing. Conservancy Executive Director Jim Karpiak summarized item 4.1 as presented in the staff report. John Kalish with Aspen Environmental was also in attendance and available for questions.

Board Member Gary Gardner asked about the two trails on federal land that were initially contemplated and whether the board had already approved those. Jim responded that the board had not yet acted on those, as they constitute a separate proposed project that will require a joint NEPA/CEQA analysis, which cannot be done without BLM's cooperation, which to date is not forthcoming.

Board Member Evan Trubee asked for clarification about the route of the Biskra trail off Madison; Conservancy Executive Director Jim Karpiak responded that the plan is to use the existing roads and social paths that are already there.

Board Member Joan Taylor noted that Mitigation Measure Bio 1A (page A-2 of the MMMP) seems inconsistent because the text of the Measure says the reviews must be completed before construction, but the timing column says "during" construction. Conservancy Executive Director Jim Karpiak and John Kalish of Aspen Environmental noted that was a typographical error, which could be corrected as part of the approval motion.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Downs/Gardner) adopting the attached Resolution 2024-06 thereby approving the Initial Study, adopting the MND and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as corrected and approving the Project. The motion passed with one abstention (Richard Kim).

- 4.2 Update on Grant Applications under the Proposition 1 Grant Program.

Maximiliano Ochoa, Conservancy Project Coordinator, summarized item 4.2 as presented in the staff report.

Board Member Denise Delgado asked about why California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) work was not done before the application was submitted. Maximiliano Ochoa, Conservancy Project Coordinator, and Diana Rosas, Conservancy Associate Director, both responded with a brief explanation of how prior projects

have worked. Conservancy Executive Director Jim Karpiak noted that Conservancy grant programs do not require CEQA to be completed before submitting the application in order to allow smaller applicants to compete without having to first expend funds for CEQA; the Conservancy often offers planning grants that pay for the CEQA work. The ultimate funding award cannot be made until the CEQA is done, however.

Board Member Evan Trubee asked about the Desert Recreation District project and how many acres it is. Board Member Patricia Cooper responded that it is a 10-acre site.

There were a few comments and questions regarding the Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indians Project; Conservancy staff responded that the application sought funds for a variety of actions and equipment, but it did not constitute a single, discrete project with a measurable outcome.

Maximiliano Ochoa, Conservancy Project Coordinator and Conservancy Executive Director Jim Karpiak summarized staff's recommendation is (i) for staff to work with the City of Coachella and the Desert Recreation District to craft specific funding recommendations for board consideration at a future meeting, and (ii) not to provide funding to the Mission Springs Water District and Torres Martinez applications, but to encourage them to apply in future funding rounds and offer staff technical assistance to them in preparing their applications.

5.0 Reports

5.1 Written reports from staff.

There were no questions or discussion from the Board.

5.2 Executive Director Report.

Conservancy Executive Director Jim Karpiak reported on the following:

- Legislative Matters – The May revised budget will be out tomorrow. No big changes are expected for the Conservancy. There has been no action on the Salton Sea since last September; the Conservancy is aware of discussions about revisions but so far, they have not been introduced.
- Operations and Transition- Conservancy Executive Director Jim Karpiak will be working through May 31, 2024, and invited board

members to contact him if they have any questions or projects, they wanted to discuss with him before he retires.

There were no board comments or questions.

5.3 Board Member comments and reports.

The Board presented Conservancy Executive Director Jim Karpiak with a retirement appreciation plaque thanking him for his years of service to the board.

6.0 Adjourn to the July 8, 2024, meeting.

Chair Rita Lamb adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:01 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 2

Agenda Item 5.1 Adoption of Resolution 2024-07 consenting to and approving the donation by the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) of one parcel in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

BACKGROUND

Conservancy staff recommends the Conservancy Board adopt Resolution 2024-07 to consent to and approve the donation of +/- 320 acres (Riverside County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 686-110-008, the Property) located in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the Tribe) for the purpose of conserving natural habitat and open space and protecting historic and cultural resources. The Property is located directly adjacent to reservation land on the north and west sides and is located within City of Palm Springs city limits as well as within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (See attached map). The Conservancy purchased the Property through the tax default process in 1997 with donation funds. The Conservancy is donating the Property to the Tribe and will not receive any payment.

In November of 2023, the Conservancy Board approved the transfer of the directly-adjacent 280-acre parcel as a land-back donation to the Tribe through Resolution 2023-17. The 280-acre parcel was originally purchased using Conservancy grant funds by the Friends of the Desert Mountains. The additional land-back donation of parcel 686-110-008 would establish a total of 600 acres of land-back donation to the Tribe from Conservancy funds.

DISCUSSION

While the Conservancy has historically supported partners in transferring land to Tribes, this will be the Conservancy's first land-back transfer of Conservancy fee title land to a Tribe and specifically to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. This is particularly important for land, such as the Property, that is ancestral tribal territory and culturally sensitive, where a Tribe is willing to take over stewardship of the land. Moreover, under the Governor's 2020 Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands, it is the explicit policy of the State of California to promote California Tribes' co-management of, or access to, tribal lands and also to work cooperatively with Tribes seeking to acquire lands. This donation is in direct alignment with these objectives.

On June 11, 2024, the Agua Caliente Tribal Council adopted Resolution No. 30-24 stating that the Property will be used for the purpose of conserving natural habitat and open space and preserving and protecting the historic and cultural resources located there, will be administered by the Tribe as an addition to the existing Tribal Reserve lands set aside for recreation and the preservation of open space and cultural resources, and will be open to the public subject to reasonable restrictions (see attached Tribal Resolution 30-24). The Tribe has a large professional staff experienced in managing land that is significant for cultural and habitat protection and used for limited recreational purposes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the attached Resolution 2024-07 consenting to and approving the donation of 320 acres of land (APN 686-110-008) in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area from the Conservancy to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

**RESOLUTION 2024-07 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION
JULY 8, 2024**

**CONSENTING TO AND APPROVING THE DONATION
BY THE COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
OF ONE PARCEL IN THE SANTA ROSA AND
SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION AREA
TO THE AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS**

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code Section 33501 created the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (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, upon approval of a Natural Community Conservation Plan, for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy purchased +/- 320 acres (Riverside County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 686-110-008, the Property) located in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area through the tax default process in 1997 with donation funds; and

WHEREAS, the Property is located directly adjacent to Tribal Reserve land of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the Tribe) on the north and west sides; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe wishes to acquire the Property for protection of wildlife habitat and cultural resources, and the Tribe plans to administer the Property as an addition to the existing Tribal Reserve in accordance with its Tribal Council Resolution 30-24, enacted June 11, 2024 (the Tribal Resolution), which states that the Property is being acquired for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy wishes to donate the Property to the Tribe for management in accordance with the Tribal Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of the Property to the Tribe (i) implements the policy of the State of California to promote tribal co-management of, or access to ancestral tribal lands and work cooperatively with tribes seeking to acquiring such lands; (ii) facilitates more efficient maintenance and monitoring of a large area of conservation land; and (iii) will better

preserve the cultural artifacts and history of the Property due to the Tribe's expertise in such matters; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy wishes to consent to the donation of the Property to the Tribe.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board consents to and approves the transfer without consideration of the Property to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, subject to the condition that:

1. The Property shall be managed in accordance with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Council Resolution 30-24, adopted June 11, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER resolved the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in her absence the Board Chair, to execute any and all documents necessary to affect the consent and approval of the transfer of the Property.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 8th day of July 2024, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Chair
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

Exhibit A



AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS TRIBAL COUNCIL

REID D. MILANOVICH CHAIRMAN • CANDACE PATENCIO ANDERSON VICE CHAIRMAN
SAVANA R. SAUBEL SECRETARY-TREASURER • JOHN R. PRECKWINKLE III MEMBER • VIRGINIA SIVA-GILLESPIE MEMBER

Resolution No. 30-24

WHEREAS, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians ("Tribe") is a federally-recognized Indian tribe governing itself, through a duly elected Tribal Council, according to a Constitution and By-Laws and exercising sovereign authority over the lands of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation (the "Reservation"); and

WHEREAS, the Tribe wishes to acquire land from the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) for the purpose of conserving natural habitat and open space and preserving and protecting the historic and cultural resources located there; and

WHEREAS, the one (1) parcel to be acquired is located adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the one (1) parcel to be acquired is identified by Assessor's Parcel Number as follows: 686-110-008 and is shown on Exhibit "A" (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Property is being transferred without consideration as a donation by the CVMC and the Tribe is acquiring the Property as an addition to the existing Tribal Reserve lands identified in the Land Use Ordinance of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, which is land set aside for recreation and the preservation of open space and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Property will be used for protection of wildlife habitat and other resources, preservation of open space, recreation, preservation of the native palms and other plants and animals native to the area, and the preservation in place or respectful public display, at the option of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, of the archaeological and cultural resources of the lands; and

WHEREAS, the Property will be administered by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians as an addition to the existing Tribal Reserve lands established by Section 3(b) of the Act of September 21, 1959 (73 Stat. 603, P.L. 86-339); and

WHEREAS, the Property will be open to the public, subject to reasonable restrictions such as those presently in effect for the above existing Tribal Reserve lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, that the Tribal Council hereby approves the acquisition of the Property for the purposes stated herein, namely, the protection of wildlife habitat and other resources, preservation of open space, recreation, preservation of the native palms and other plants and animals native to the area, and the preservation in place or respectful public display of the archaeological and cultural resources of the acquired land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians that the Chief Planning Officer, or her designee, is hereby authorized to (i) prepare, execute, and deliver any and all documents which she may deem necessary or advisable in order to consummate the purchase and acquisition of the Properties; and (ii) take whatever other steps that are necessary



Resolution No. 30-24
Page 2 of 2

to carry out, give effect to, and comply with the terms and intent of this Resolution, including, but not limited to (a) initiating revisions to the zoning map or Chapter 9.04 of the Agua Caliente Tribal Code, or (b) initiating a fee-to-trust application and taking any and all steps to consummate the same in accordance with Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act ("IRA") (25 U.S.C. § 5108) and its implementing regulations, or (c) initiating a reservation proclamation and taking any and all steps to consummate the same in accordance with Section 7 of the IRA (25 U.S.C. § 5110) and its implementing regulations.

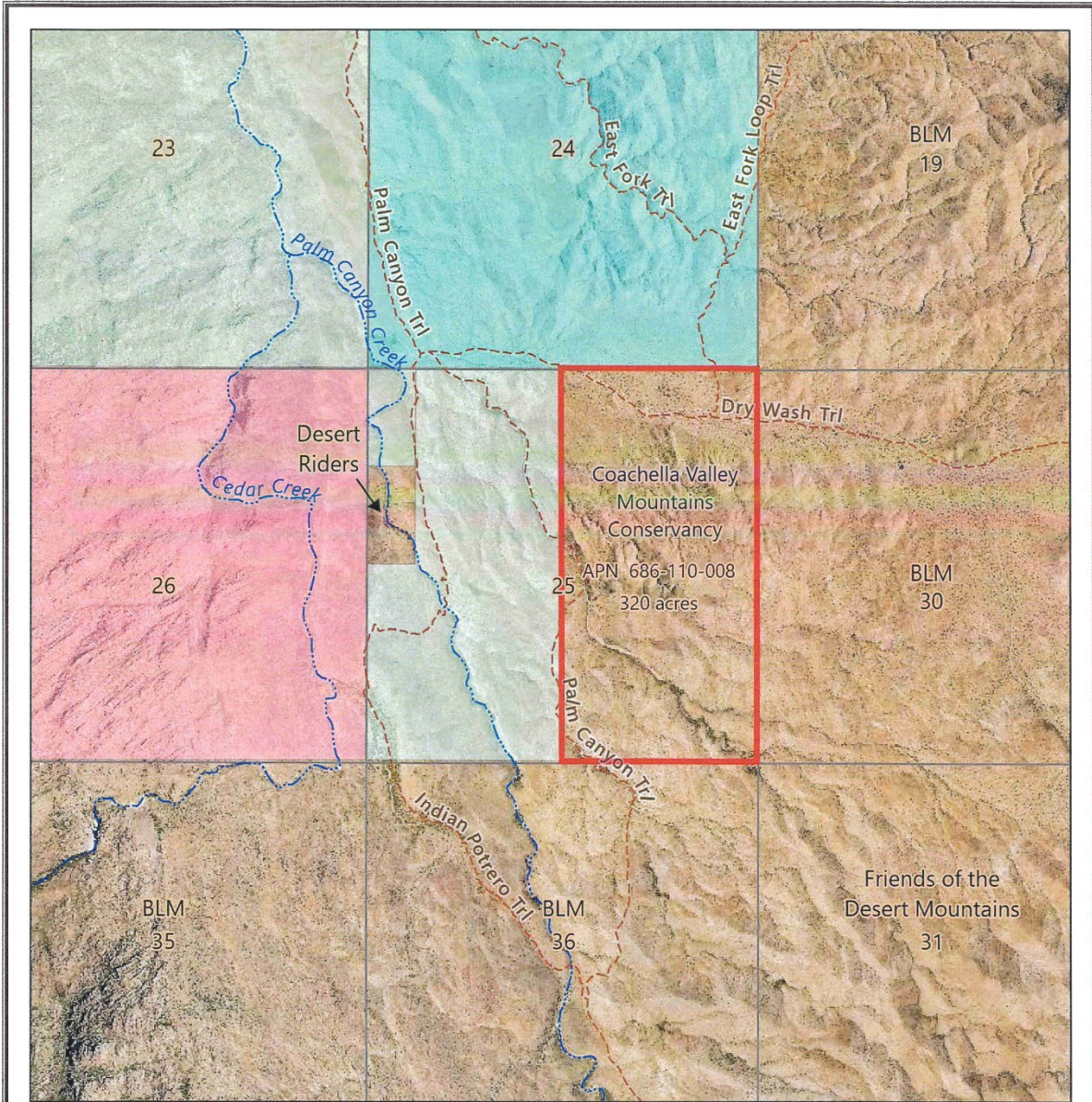
DATED: June 11, 2024

Reid D. Milanovich, Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, the Secretary of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of five members of whom 5 constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting whereof duly called and noticed, convened and held this 11th day of June, 2024; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 4-0-0 members and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Savana R. Saubel, Secretary-Treasurer

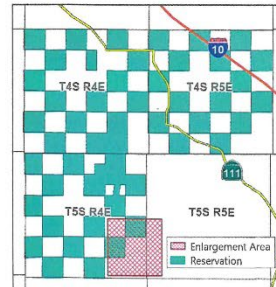
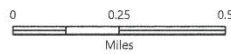


AGUA CALIENTE INDIAN RESERVATION

TOWNSHIP 5S, RANGE 4E, SECTION 25

- APN 686-110-008
- Tribal
- Tribal Outside Reservation
- Allotted and Not Leased
- Fee
- Township Sections

Resolution No. 30-24 EXHIBIT "A"



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Exhibit B



AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS TRIBAL COUNCIL

REID D. MILANOVICH CHAIRMAN • CANDACE PATENCIO ANDERSON VICE CHAIRMAN
SAVANA R. SAUBEL SECRETARY-TREASURER • JOHN R. PRECKWINKLE III MEMBER • VIRGINIA SIVA-GILLESPIE MEMBER

June 11, 2024

Elizabeth M. King, Executive Director
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 120
Palm Desert, CA 92260

RE: Request for Approval of Land Return of APN #686-110-008 to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Dear Ms. King,

In response to the Governor's 2020 Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the Tribe) is formally requesting approval from the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) of the terms of transfer for land return of one parcel (APN #686-110-008, the Property), consisting of approximately 320 acres, to the Tribe.

Consistent with Executive Order N-82-20, known as the "30x30" Goals, which highlight the important role of Native American Tribes as critical partners that will further catalyze action to protect California's natural resources and lands; the Agua Caliente Tribal Council has adopted Tribal Resolution No. 30-24 on June 11, 2024, stating that the Property will be used for protection of wildlife habitat and cultural resources, will be administered by the Tribe as an addition to the existing Tribal Reserve, and will be open to the public subject to restrictions necessary to protect artifacts and habitat values.

The Tribe is requesting that the Property be transferred without consideration as a donation by the CVMC. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reid D. Milanovich".

Reid D. Milanovich
Chairman, Tribal Council
**AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF
CAHUILLA INDIANS**

ATTACHMENT 3

Agenda Item 5.2 Request for Approval of the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Authority) Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Section 9.4 of the Authority’s Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, the Authority board must adopt an annual budget in a form approved by the Conservancy and the Desert Recreation District (District), which budget shall be submitted to the Conservancy and the District boards for approval, in the time and manner as specified by the Conservancy and the District. Public funds may not be disbursed by the Authority without approval of the adopted budget of the Authority, and all receipts and disbursements shall be in strict conformance with the adopted and approved budget.

DISCUSSION

The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 (attached) includes the programs and activities that support the Authority’s annual workplan. The annual workplan includes the following programs:

• Administration	\$9,550
• Shumway Ranch Operations	\$10,000
• Land Management Capacity Building Project	\$107,500
• Unidentified Projects/Programs	\$50,000
Total	<u>\$177,050</u>

The Authority has a beginning fund balance of \$ 12,114 consisting of one grant balance that will carry over to the new fiscal year. The Authority anticipates revenues of \$177,500 from a combination of sources including member contributions, intergovernmental revenue, user fees, and grants. The program expenditures outlined above are \$177,050 leaving the Authority with an estimated ending fund balance of \$12,564 as illustrated in the table below:

FY2024-25 Budget Summary

Beginning Fund Balance	\$12,114
Revenues	\$177,500
Expenditures	<u>\$177,050</u>
Ending Fund Balance	\$12,564

The District approved the Authority budget on May 29, 2024. Therefore, staff request the Conservancy Board provide its approval. Should one or both member agencies not approve the budget, staff will resubmit the budget to the Authority to amend and approve any requested adjustments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends a motion approving the attached Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

Exhibit A

CVRMRCA Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget July 2024 - June 2025

	Grant No. 38500000CRCA0009	Administration	Shumway Ranch Operations	Unidentified Grants/Projects	TOTAL
Income					
Grants	107,500			50,000	157,500
Member Contributions		10,000			10,000
User Fees			10,000		10,000
Total Income	107,500	10,000	10,000	50,000	177,500
Gross Profit	107,500	10,000	10,000	50,000	177,500
Expenses					0
General Services	107,500		10,000	50,000	167,500
Insurance		4,800			4,800
Office Supplies & Software		1,200			1,200
Professional Services		3,500			3,500
Special Fees		50			50
Total Expenses	107,500	9,550	10,000	50,000	177,050
Net Operating Income	0	450	0	0	450
Net Income	0	450	0	0	450

Friday, May 10, 2024 01:39:07 PM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis

ATTACHMENT 4

Agenda Item 5.3 Presentation by Desert Recreation District

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – No Board action required.

BACKGROUND

For more than 70 years, Desert Recreation District (the District) has played a key role in enriching the quality of life for residents and visitors through the recreational services in the Greater Coachella Valley. The District covers over 1,865 square miles and provides recreational services to approximately 380,000 residents.

The District is the largest park and recreation district in California, and manages, maintains and assists in maintaining over 40 parks and recreation facilities.

In 2019, the Conservancy joined with the district to create a joint powers authority named the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (Authority). The District General Manager serves as Vice Chair of the Authority. The Authority, using the District's public works staff, has facilitated public works projects at the Conservancy's Shumway Ranch.

The District will provide an informational presentation on Shumway Ranch projects and general updates.

ATTACHMENT 5

Agenda Item 6.1 Written Reports from Staff

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:

Willow Hole Conservation Area: In May, the CVCC board approved the acquisition of one parcel consisting of +/- 5.0 acres, escrow is expected to close by end of July.

Upper Mission Creek Conservation Area: In June, the CVCC board approved the acquisition of one parcel consisting of +/-48.31 acres, escrow is expected to close by end of December 2024 due to probate issues that must be resolved prior to closing escrow.

Tax Default Properties: In October 2022, CVCC applied to purchase 48 tax defaulted parcels. Since then, in several different letters, CVCC has received notice that eight of the parcels have been redeemed and are no longer available for purchase. CVCC received a letter with the purchase price quotes for the parcels that remain available under the tax sale for which CVCC applied for. In June the CVCC board approved the acquisition of the 40 tax default parcels and passed a resolution accepting the purchase price quotes. CVCC is now awaiting the Tax Sale Agreement from the County. The acquisition process through the tax default program can take three to five years from the application submittal to recording of properties under the vesting of the applicant.

In October 2023, CVCC received a list of parcels eligible for acquisition under the Tax Default program. In December 2023, CVCC applied to purchase 12 tax defaulted parcels. In February, CVCC received notice that one of the parcels had been redeemed and is no longer available for purchase. CVCC is awaiting purchase price quotes for the remaining 11 parcels that have not been redeemed.

In January 2024, CVCC received another list of parcels eligible for acquisition under the Tax Default Program. In February, CVCC applied to purchase 12 tax defaulted parcels. CVCC received notice that two of the 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.

Appraisals Completed and/or in Process:

1. Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area – In March, an appraisal was completed on five parcels, consisting of 222.72+/-acres, representing separate ownerships. One owner accepted CVCC’s contingent offer and is now in escrow for the purchase of +/- 48.31acres which is expected to close by end of December. Appraisal expires April 2025.
2. Willow Hole Conservation Area - In June 2023, an appraisal was completed on 49 parcels, consisting of +/-312.41 acres, representing separate ownerships. To date a total of +/- 83.65 acres have been acquired. Appraisal expires July 2024.

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM - PROJECT STATUS

City of Indio - Infrastructure Grant – Jackson St. and Ave. 50 Flood Prevention Project: The City is preparing engineering plans, right of way acquisitions, and procurement of qualified contractors for the flood prevention project; this work is expected to be completed by end of September. To expedite the final construction, the project was split into phases. Bid requests will be issued subsequently with a contract award and construction to begin after September.

Southern California Mountains Foundation - Restoration Grant – Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration Project: 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 12.81-acres of initial treatment and 23.26-acres of re-treatment with the goal to complete 60 acres of initial treatment and 15 acres of re-treatment. The acres treated and re-treated are being reviewed to accurately reflect and account for the total acres completed thus far in the restoration project. The next season with field work or “spike” days is scheduled in September, priority work will focus on the treatment of the northern boundary of the project area and the difficult terrains.

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens - Infrastructure Grant – San Felipe Creek Desert Pupfish Pond Project: The Living Desert has finished the third desert pupfish pond for the San Felipe Creek population. The grantee completed the fine grading of the pond, cut and installed the liner, added sand into the pond, installed irrigation line, and filled it with water. The water will “season” and acquire all the plants and insects that form the food

for the pupfish over the next few weeks and fish from the San Felipe Creek will be introduced later in the summer when most of the creek dries up.

The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) - Planning Grant - *Whitewater Preserve Flood Control Improvement Project*: TWC has received Planning clearance from Riverside County for the grading permit, however, environmental agency permits are still in the review period, so the County has extended the permit application to mid-December while the regulatory agencies process the environmental permits. The delay is due to the need for focused environmental surveys in the project areas within a specified window of the project breaking ground. TWC staff are working with Planning/Land Use to get their final concurrence and have requested a no-cost extension to the end of December.

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians - Infrastructure Grant – Section 33 Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project

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

Center for Natural Lands Management – Restoration Grant – Dos Palmas Controlled Core Marsh Burn and 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 Public Cemetery District – Infrastructure Grant – Water Management System Project

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 Conservation Commission - Restoration Grant - Wetlands Restoration, Tamarisk Control and Rail Habitat Enhancement at North Shore Ranch Project

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

Coachella Valley Water District – Infrastructure Grant – Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project

Coachella Valley Water District – Infrastructure Grant – DHS and Mission Creek Subbasins Groundwater Monitoring Wells 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

Friends of the Desert Mountains – Restoration Grant – Santa Rosa Wilderness Restoration Project

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

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

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians – Restoration Grant – Santa Rosa Horse Creek Dam and Wetlands Restoration 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

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens - Restoration Grant - Dos Palmas-Middle Salt Creek Restoration Project

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

Torres Martínez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Planning and Restoration Grant - Phase 2-Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration

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

University of California/Riverside – Planning Grant - Salton Sea Crust and Water Quality Remediation Project

PROPOSITION 68 GRANT PROGRAM – PROJECT STATUS

City of Indio – Infrastructure Grant – *Parking Lot Improvements at the Indio Hills Badlands Trail*: Parking lot design by MSA Consulting Inc., has been completed, bid for the construction was awarded to Three Peaks Corp., and authorized by the City Council on March 20th, 2024. The project has additional permit requirements with Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), which is estimated to take 3 to 6 months. Construction will commence once the grantee receives the additional permits.

Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – Planning Grant – *Trails Environmental Assessment*: The CEQA documentation has been completed, Conservancy staff is working with the consultant on next steps to obtain site control and entitlements.

City of Coachella – Planning Grant – Environmental Analysis for its Grapefruit Boulevard Urban Greening Project: engineering, design and environmental documentation. The grantee has completed the Environmental Assessment and filed the Notice of Intent on April 5th. The final MND is expected to be filed within the grant period but Conservancy staff is awaiting confirmation from the grantee.

Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – Infrastructure Grant – *Conservation Greenhouse Project*: The project to construct a conservation-dedicated greenhouse to germinate and propagate native plants for use in projects will improve climate resilience and community access to nature across the Coachella Valley. Construction of the Greenhouse is underway. Once the construction is complete, the staff and volunteers will be trained on maintenance and use of the greenhouse.

Living Desert Zoo and Gardens - Infrastructure Grant - Signs of Nature Project - Connecting Desert Hot Springs to Nearby Nature: The project will design, fabricate, and install double-sided bilingual interpretative signage at 18 sites; libraries, community centers and other public locations in and around Desert Hot Springs. All signs have been approved and received. Brackets for installation have not been received, the grantee is working with the manufacturer to address the issue. Once the brackets are received, the grantee will install the signboards at its approved location.

Riverside County Parks and Open Space District – Planning Grant – Coachella Valley Regional Park Feasibility Study: The project consists of a consultant preparing a feasibility study to analyze the market for a regional park at four potential sites in the Coachella Valley that would serve economically disadvantaged communities. Webb consulting has completed Task 1, a report on prior efforts. Webb has completed the outreach plans and have selected the locations for community meetings scheduled for Fall (October).

PROPOSITION 68 GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS

Center for Natural Lands Management – Infrastructure Grant – (Coachella Valley) C.V. Preserve Fencing Grant.

Center for Lands Management – Infrastructure Grant – C.V. Preserve. Restroom Replacement Project.

Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – Infrastructure Grant - Existing Trails and Interpretative Signage Project.

Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – Planning, Design, and Infrastructure Grants – Shumway Restroom and Pavilion Improvements.

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

Friends of the Desert Mountains – Design Grant – Signage/Interpretive Improvements Project - National Monument Visitor Center.

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

Kounkuey Design Initiative – Planning Grant – SDAC - Restoration of the Salton Sea-State Recreation Area.

Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – Infrastructure Grant – *Greening the Desert Project:*
Interpretative signage in public places.

Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – Infrastructure Grant - *East Valley Pollinator Pathway Demonstration Project:* Pollinator gardens with native plants at school campuses in Coachella, Thermal, and Mecca.

Oswit Land Trust – Planning Grant – *Biological Resources Assessment and Environmental Review for the Prescott Preserve.*

Shumway Ranch.Org – Planning Grants – Master Plan and Shumway Ranch Historic Structure Preservation Plan.

Southern California Mountains Foundation – Planning Grant – Concept Design and Strategic Plan for C.V. Conservation Corps Center Project.

CVMC FUND STATUS

The Conservancy's currently available funding balances are as follows:

Proposition 1	\$3,029,358.45
Proposition 68	\$3,664,905.66
Proposition 84	\$5,545,453.71
CRCA FY22/23	\$ 0
Total Remaining Funds	\$ 12,239,717.82

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

In 2022 the Coachella Valley 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. 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.

No new applications for Coachella Valley projects are pending or in process due to a lack of sellers willing to participate in the program, which can take a year or more to complete.