

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
Regular Meeting – November 17, 2025, 3:00 PM

73-510 Fred Waring Drive
(Administrative Conference Room)
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Teleconference locations:

State of California, Resources Agency
715 P Street,
2nd floor, Conference Room 02-310
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
39400 Clinton Keith Rd.
Murrieta, CA 92562

REVISED NOTICE AND AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions – The Board Chair will establish quorum and call the meeting to order, as well as make introductions.

2.0 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.

3.0 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.

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

Action Item 4.1 Approval of May 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes – The Board will review and vote to approve meeting minutes from May 12, 2025.
(See Attachment 1.)

Action Item 4.2 Approval of 2026 Governing Board Meeting Schedule and Location – The Board will review and vote on approval of the proposed meeting schedule and location for calendar year 2026. Meeting location City of Palm Desert's Administrative Conference Room located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115, Palm Desert CA 92260.
(See Attachment 2.)

Action Item 4.3 Elections of Conservancy Board Officers for Calendar Year 2026 and Appointing Representative to the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (CVDMRCA) Governing Board – The Board will elect the Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2026 and will appoint a representative to the CVDMRCA for Calendar Year 2026.
(See Attachment 3.)

Action Item 4.4 Adoption of Resolution 2025-04 consenting to and approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to Oswit Land Trust – The Board will vote on approval regarding the Happy Valley Restoration and Preservation Project and on delegation of authority to CVMC Executive Director to file Notice of Exemption for CEQA.
(See Attachment 4.)

Action Item 4.5 Adoption of Resolution 2025-05 consenting to and approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – The Board will vote on approval regarding the Central Coachella

Valley Pollinator Pathway Project and on delegation of authority to CVMC Executive Director to file Notice of Exemption for CEQA.
(See Attachment 5.)

Action Item 4.6

Adoption of Resolution 2025-06 consenting to and approving the transfer of one parcel of land by the Friends of the Desert Mountains to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and establishing conditions for the termination and release of recorded restrictions, including the Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement (NOUGA) – The Board will vote regarding consent to and approval of transferring a 656-acre parcel of land, known as Riverside County Assessor Parcel Number 686-320-013, in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for conservation in perpetuity, and on establishing conditions for the termination and release of recorded restrictions, including the Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement (NOUGA).
(See Attachment 6.)

Action Item 4.7

Adoption of Resolution 2025-07 consenting to and approving Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines – The Board will vote regarding approval of new Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines.
(See Attachment 7.)

5.0 Informational Items

Informational Item 5.1

Presentation by Native American Land Conservancy (NALC) – NALC will provide an informational presentation regarding conservation efforts.
(See Attachment 8.)

Informational Item 5.2

CVMC Photo Contest - Protecting Public Lands. Staff will present photo contest guidelines for board comments before marketing the contest.
(See Attachment 9.)

6.0 Reports

- 6.1 Written Reports from Staff – Staff will provide updates on Conservancy on-going projects. (See Attachment 10.)
- 6.2 Executive Director Report Conservancy Executive Director will provide updates for FY 2025/2026.
- 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 February 9, 2026, 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 42-600 Cook Street, Suite 219, Palm Desert, CA 92211.

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 42-600 Cook Street, Suite 219, Palm Desert, CA 92211.

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 42-600 Cook Street, Suite 219 Palm Desert, CA 92211. 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 – November 17, 2025

Action Item 4.1 Approval of May 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

(CVMC)

REGULAR MEETING

73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115

(Administrative Conference Room)

Palm Desert, CA 92260

DRAFT MINUTES

May 12, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

Teleconference 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
Denise Delgado, City of Coachella
Steve Downs, City of Rancho Mirage
Gary Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs
Benjamin Guitron, City of Indio
Bjana Jefferson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
(Remote)
Rita Lamb, City of Cathedral City (*Vice-Chair*)
Deborah McGarrey, City of La Quinta (*Chair*)
Margaret Park, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Brian Penna, City of Indian Wells
V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County
Andrea Scharffer, CA Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
(Remote)
Joan Taylor, Governor's Appointee
Christopher Tracy, University of California, Riverside (UCR)
Ellen Lloyd Trover, Senate Rules Committee Appointee
Evan Trubee, City of Palm Desert
John Walsh, Wildlife Conservation Board

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephen Benson, Department of Finance
Grace Garner, City of Palm Springs
Beatriz Gonzalez, State Assembly Appointee

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Briana Greenwood, City of Coachella
Tammy Martin, Friends of the Desert Mountains
Jennifer Prado, Southern California Mountains Foundation

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Deborah McGarrey declared a quorum with 16 voting members present and called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. Subsequently, one additional Board Member (Delgado) arrived after the roll call bringing the attendance to 17 voting members.

2.0 Approval of February 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded (Downs/Gardner) to approve the February 10, 2025, minutes; the motion passed with one abstention (Taylor).

3.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No public comments on items not on the agenda.

4.0 Closed Session

No closed session was scheduled for this meeting.

5.0 Action/Informational Items- Public Hearing

Action Item 5.1 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program.

Chair McGarrey introduced Maximiliano Ochoa, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) Project Coordinator, who gave a brief overview of the NOFA for the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Program.

Board Member Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs, asked if this action item was to approve the project. Executive Director Elizabeth King clarified that each action item would be voted on one-by-one and that the current item was only to approve to move forward with Category 1 and Category 2 projects. Chair McGarrey clarified that City of

Coachella would need to abstain from approval of Action Item 5.1 Category 1 and Category 2 projects.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Gardner/Tracy) to categorize projects as proposed and to postpone consideration of Category 2 projects until CEQA compliance is fully determined. The motion passed with one abstention (Delgado).

Action Item 5.2 Adoption of Resolution 2025-01 consenting to and approving Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant to the City of Coachella for its Rancho Las Flores Stormwater Project.

Project Coordinator Ochoa summarized item 5.2 as presented in the staff report.

Board Member Trubee, City of Palm Desert, asked if the project would serve a dual purpose as a basin and sports field. Briana Greenwood, City of Coachella, confirmed that when the basin is not capturing stormwater it will be used as a sports field, serving a dual purpose.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Gardner/Lamb) approving a Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant to the City of Coachella in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for its Rancho Las Flores Park Stormwater Infrastructure Project. The motion passed with one abstention (Delgado).

Action Item 5.3 Adoption of Resolution 2025-02 consenting to and approving Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant to the Southern California Mountains Foundation for its Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration Project.

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

Board Member Trubee asked about the success rate of tamarisk removal. Jennifer Prado, Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF), responded that an exact number cannot be given due to various factors. However, in past personal experience it seems to be about an 80 percent success rate. Board Member Tracy, University of California Riverside (UCR), also commented that one of the challenges is the seed bank, meaning, even if removal is successful, seed banks can cause re-growth.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Taylor/Downs) approving a Proposition 1 Local Assistance Grant to the Southern California Mountains Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$213,707 for its Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration Project. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 5.4 Request for Approval of the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget.

Executive Director King summarized item 5.4 as presented in the staff report.

Board Member Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs, asked if the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) Ranger Program is part of the CVDMRCA budget. Executive Director King clarified that the Ranger Program is being created to patrol conservation lands and has been funded for three years with a grant from CVMC to CVCC. Currently CVDMRCA or Desert Recreation District (DRD) are considering housing the Ranger Program under their respective organizations; when the decision is made the CVMC board will be notified. Board Member Guitron, City of Indio, asked if the Ranger Program being housed means managed, trained and supervised. Executive Director King responded that the attorneys are looking to see which entity would have the authority to enforce a new ordinance on these lands. Board Member Guitron responded that this is a policy of enforcement and asked if there will also be an enforcement policy and oversight training to the Program. Executive Director King confirmed and stated that the attorneys are exploring the legal authorities for enforcement. It was also mentioned that the Program is modeled around the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Ranger Program. Board Member Guitron mentioned it might be worth having a study session to discuss the model and entities involved to avoid future issues. Board Member Trover, CA Senate Appointee, expressed her excitement in moving forward.

Board Member Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs, asked about the CVMC/CVDMRCA board position designation. Chair McGarrey suggested that it be tabled for the next meeting until a policy has been drafted on the process for approving the board position.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Gardner/Downs) approving the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item 5.5 Adoption of Resolution 2025-03 consenting to and approving Diana Rosas as Acting Executive Director from August – October 2025.

Executive Director King summarized item 5.5 as presented in the staff report.

Associate Director Diana Rosas expressed her acceptance and willingness to serve as temporary Acting Director during King's Maternity Leave. Associate Director Rosas also added that it will be a team effort. Chair McGarrey expressed her support. Board Member Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs, also echoed Chair McGarrey's comment expressing his strong support.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Gardner/Delgado) approving Diana Rosas as the Acting Executive Director of CVMC from approximately August- October 2025 or as long as the Maternity Leave persists, not to exceed four months.

Informational Item 5.6 Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy 2024 Annual Report Presentation.

Project Coordinator Ochoa summarized Information Item 5.6 as presented in the staff report.

Board Member Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs, expressed his excitement with the Annual Report. It was also noted that the recent community outreach has given the Conservancy much needed visibility.

Informational Item 5.7 Recognition of Tammy Martin for Receiving the Trails Champion Award from California State Parks.

Executive Director King recognized Tammy Martin for receiving the Trails Champion Award from California State Parks.

Tammy Martin, Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM), expressed her gratitude and appreciation to CVMC and DRD. Martin, FODM, also noted to City officials the upcoming Public Lands Day and FODM efforts to assist the Cities with cleanup of their public lands. City officials are encouraged to reach out to FODM directly for scheduling any cleanups. Executive Director King asked if there is a date for Public Lands Day. Martin, FODM, commented that Public Lands Day falls in September but due to the heat FODM is planning to complete cleanups later in the Fall. Chair McGarrey also congratulated Tammy Martin and FODM for all the work that they do.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Written reports from staff.

Associate Director Rosas gave a brief update on acquisitions and land management updates.

Vice Chair Lamb, City of Cathedral City, asked for clarification regarding the Tax Default properties on hold due to potential legal risks. Associate Director Rosas commented that the U.S Supreme Court decision in Tyler v. Hennepin County, Minnesota, et al has created potential legal risks. Due to the legal risks, it has been decided by Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector to postpone the planned Agreement of Sales. For now,

all sales are on hold until further notice which is not expected until the 2026, according to the Riverside County Tax Sale Operations Unit.

6.2 Executive Director Report.

Executive Director King reported on the following:

King shared her congratulations to Kevin Kalman, Desert Recreation District, on his retirement announcement, and thanked him for his 27 years of service. Regarding grant management, staff continue to manage 27 active grants, an investment of over \$16 million in the Valley. Proposition 4's guidelines will be out for public comment and Tribal Consultation soon. Regarding acquisitions, King discussed the 106,000 acres of land conserved and co-managed. CVMC is supportive of establishing a ranger program and ordinance to help with the lands management. She shared wildlife camera photos of a bobcat and burrowing owl on CVMC land. Regarding local outreach, CVMC has publicly supported responsible recreation practices to protect Bighorn Sheep. CVMC conducted youth outreach by meeting with the Urban Conservation Corps on upcoming projects for the corps at FODM's Wildflower Festival. On March 7th, CVMC presented to 40 students at the Palm Desert High School Ecology Club. CVMC also engaged with the Desert Hot Springs Rotary Club and Desert Hot Springs High School and conducted a site visit with Desert Compost at Indio High School. CVMC staff will be moving offices on July 1, 2025.

Board Member Guitron, City of Indio, suggested to add some of the wildlife photos to the CVMC website. Board Member Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs, asked if there was a budget update. Executive Director King responded that per the Department of Finance, a public update on state budget-related issues will be available after the Governor releases the May revision later in the week, and the public update will be shared with the Board via email.

6.3 Board Member Comments and Reports.

Board Member V. Manuel Perez, County of Riverside, District 4, spoke on the abandoned golf course in Desert Hot Springs that the Oswit Land Trust is trying to acquire. He expressed the County's support for the acquisition project and wanted to bring the attention to the Board. Board Member Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs, also spoke on the project and acknowledged the City of Desert Hot Springs' support moving forward. Board Member Perez also mentioned the proposal of renaming the Bump and Grind Trail to the Brian Nestande Bump and Grind Trail. Board Member Delgado thanked the Board for their consideration and approval of the City of Coachella's grants for the Rancho Las Flores and Bagdouma Parks. She assured the Board that the grant funds will be put to good use. Martin, FODM, also mentioned that the dedication bench in memory of former

CVMC/FODM Board Member and former City of Palm Desert Council Member Buford Crites is ready to be installed at a specified trailhead.

It was also noted that all future CVMC board meetings would be held at the City of Palm Desert in the Administrative Conference Room.

7.0 Adjourn to the August 11, 2025, meeting.

Chair McGarrey adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:45 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 2 – November 17, 2025

Action Item 4.2 Approval of 2026 Governing Board Meeting Schedule and Location

BACKGROUND

Last November 2024, the Conservancy Board approved meeting on a quarterly basis to increase efficiencies and allow more time for staff to manage grant applications and further complete its due diligence for grant recommendations. The meeting location also changed due to the Conservancy having to move office spaces and locate a new meeting space to host its regular governing board meetings.

DISCUSSION

Staff propose to continue with the quarterly meeting schedule for 2026 as follows:

February 9, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.

May 11, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.

August 10, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.

November 16, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.

Staff also propose to continue hosting the regular governing board meetings at the City of Palm Desert's Administrative Conference Room located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 115, Palm Desert CA 92260.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend approval of the proposed 2026 meeting schedule and location for the Conservancy's regular governing board meetings.

ATTACHMENT 3 – November 17, 2025

Action Item 4.3 Elections of Conservancy Board Officers for Calendar Year 2026 and Appointing Representative to the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Governing Board

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33506, the terms of the CVMC Chair and Vice-Chair positions are one year. Note that under Public Resources Code section 33506, 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.

In addition, the Board appoints a representative to the five-member board of the Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (CVDMRCA). The CVDMRCA's joint powers agreement establishes a board consisting of the Executive Director of the Conservancy, the General Manager of Desert Recreation District (DRD), appointees of the boards of the Conservancy and DRD, and an appointee of the Executive Director of CVCC.

DISCUSSION

The last election was held in January 2024, with Deborah McGarrey elected as Chair and Rita Lamb as Vice Chair. Both Deborah and Rita are completing their first one-year terms as officers in their respective roles, and recent practice has been for officers to serve two terms. The Board now needs to elect officers for calendar year 2026.

Regarding the CVDMRCA board representation, Kathleen Fitzpatrick was first appointed in 2019 when she was serving as the Conservancy's board chair and CVDMRCA was first created. Kathleen left the Conservancy board in 2022 and indicated that she would like to make way for a Conservancy board member to replace her on the CVDMRCA governing board. While the board's appointee to CVDMRCA is not required to be a Conservancy board member, due to the close relationship of the two agencies and small size of the CVDMRCA governing board, it facilitates operations and consistent policymaking for the appointee to be a Conservancy Board member, and where possible, the Conservancy Board Chair. Thus, in 2023 Gary Gardner, who was the Conservancy Board Chair at the time, was appointed to the CVDMRCA governing board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Accordingly, staff recommends the Board elect a Chair and Vice Chair. Staff also recommends appointing the Conservancy Board Chair as the new representative on the CVDMRCA governing board.

ATTACHMENT 4 – November 17, 2025

Agenda Item 4.4 Adoption of Resolution 2025-04 Consenting to and Approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to Oswit Land Trust for its Happy Valley Restoration and Preservation Project

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy's Proposition 68 Grant Program seeks to expand public access to safe parks, wildlife preserves, trails and recreational areas, mitigate the effects of climate change and encourage water conservation and drought preparedness. In February 2019, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals with applications accepted on a continuous basis until funds are fully awarded. Currently, the remaining balance for Local Assistance grants under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Grant Program is \$3,591,072.

In July 2024, Oswit Land Trust (OLT), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect sensitive lands and wildlife habitat in perpetuity, acquired the Happy Valley Property in Indio Hills. OLT currently owns and manages approximately 10,000 acres, including the Happy Valley property. In the year that OLT has owned and managed the Happy Valley property, staff have identified management issues relating to unauthorized vehicle access and illegal dumping on the property. OLT is requesting a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant from the Conservancy in the amount of \$71,801 for a Restoration and Preservation Project that proposes durable and cost-effective measures to prevent unauthorized vehicle access and illegal dumping, preserving the 640-acres' ecological integrity while supporting future educational and stewardship programming.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

OLT proposes to strategically place boulders approximately 2,800 feet along the perimeter of OLT's Happy Valley property (Exhibit A, Project Location, Riverside County Assessor Parcel Numbers 750-130-006 and 750-130-008) on Dillon Road to prevent unauthorized off-road vehicle access and protect the natural state of the site while maintaining passage for wildlife and allowing natural hydrologic flow. In addition to the barrier, signage would be installed to communicate property rules and provide information on habitat preservation efforts.

Boulder delivery and placement will be coordinated with Whitewater Rock & Supply Co. over an estimated 20 workdays. In addition to the boulder installation, the project includes the placement of 10–15 bilingual interpretive and regulatory signs spaced approximately every 300 feet, along with a larger sign at the Perkins Road entrance. These signs will

convey property rules, promote ecological awareness, and communicate OLT's conservation mission to the local community and public visiting the property.

Community engagement and educational programming are central components of the project. OLT plans to host cleanup events in November 2025 and deliver outdoor classroom programming in 2026, in partnership with the Urban Conservation Corps (UCC), Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and volunteers. These activities will include educational materials and stewardship exercises designed to increase understanding of local ecology, wildlife habitat, and sustainable land management practices.

The Happy Valley Boulder Project directly addresses persistent threats to the property, including illegal off-road vehicle use, illegal dumping, cholla poaching, and habitat fragmentation. By combining physical site preservation with public education through signage and programming, OLT aims to safeguard sensitive habitat, enhance biodiversity, and establish a long-term foundation for sustainable community engagement and stewardship. Furthermore, OLT offers a total of \$5,400 in matching funds, that totals approximately seven percent of the total project cost of \$77,201.

ANALYSIS

To be eligible for funding, a project must meet one or more objectives outlined in the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines (the Guidelines), which focus on habitat and wildlife protection, enhancing access to outdoor recreation, preserving cultural and historical resources, and responding to climate change with nature-based solutions. The Happy Valley Boulder Project aligns with multiple objectives outlined in the Guidelines, including the protection of open space and wildlife habitat within a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC). The project also promotes community engagement through stewardship activities, cleanup events, and educational programming. Additionally, it enhances the resiliency of sensitive desert ecosystems, supporting broader statewide conservation goals such as California's 30x30 Initiative.

The project also demonstrates strong alignment with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan (Goal 2- Improving management of conserved lands and enhancing habitat values). Based on those objectives and the evaluation criteria in the Guidelines, staff rated the proposed Project as a priority for full funding with a score of 90/100, as discussed in more detail below.

PROPOSITION 68 OBJECTIVES

The Project fulfills numerous statutory objectives as reflected in specified priorities of the Guidelines:

- **Guidelines Priority (a) 1d: Community access projects, such as public education that focuses on natural resource management or land stewardship programs.** Engages students, volunteers, and families in land stewardship and conservation education through cleanups and educational programming.
- **Guidelines Priority (a) 4: Protecting the open space, wildlife, scenic, biological, and recreational resources of the Coachella Valley.** The proposed project will prevent illegal access and dumping, will preserve 640 acres of sensitive desert habitat and will maintain wildlife corridors connected to critical linkages identified by the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan.
- **Guidelines Priority (b): Economically Disadvantaged Community Investment and Co-Benefits.** The proposed project will provide stewardship opportunities and paid work experience for youth from SDACs through UCC participation in cleanup and restoration activities.

OTHER PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

OLT demonstrates strong organizational capacity and technical expertise necessary to carry out the proposed project effectively. OLT leverages approximately \$5,400 of in-kind contributions and builds upon established partnerships with the Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF), Urban Conservation Corps (UCC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in addition to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. The proposed work qualifies as a capital expenditure under Proposition 68 and fully meets the statutory and programmatic requirements of the Conservancy's Local Assistance Grant Program. In addition, OLT has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of Proposition 68 and the Guidelines and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE

All Conservancy funded projects must comply with applicable environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). OLT contracted with

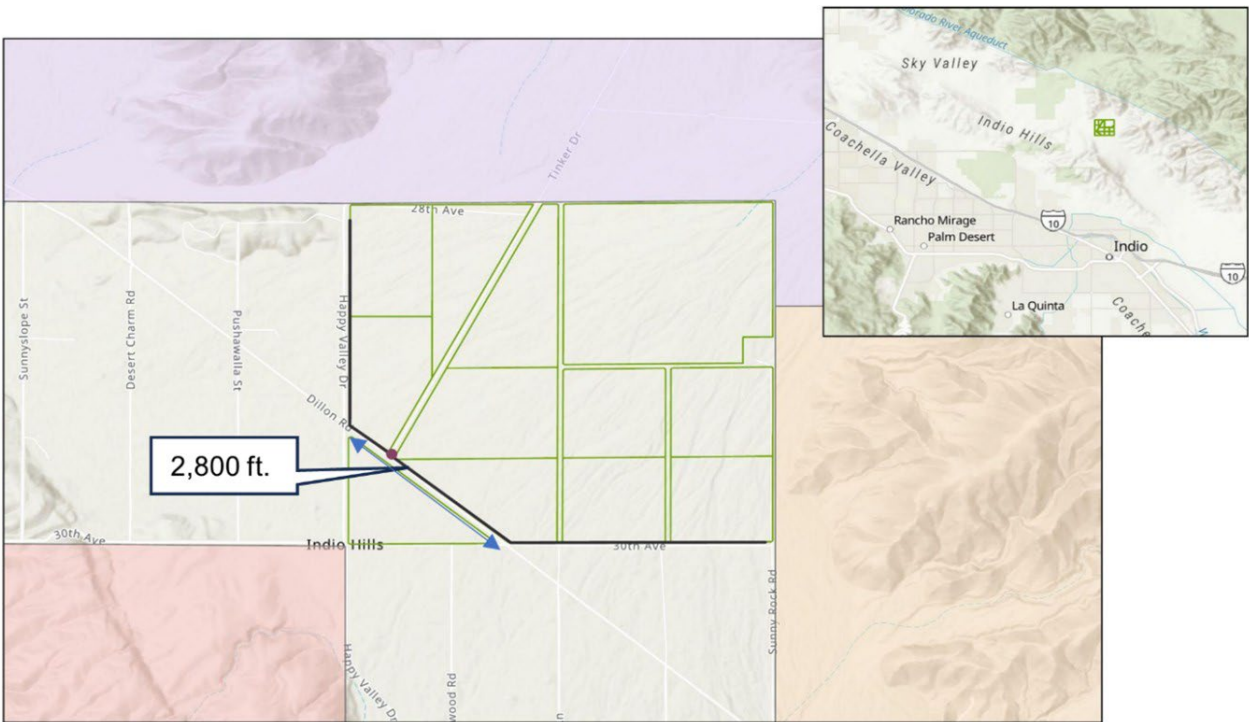
Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to secure CEQA compliance. Aspen determined that the proposed Project is exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents as boulder placement would be a minor alteration to a private preserve that would not involve removal of trees, consistent with a Class 4 categorical exemption. The project would not involve ground disturbance and would have no alterations to Dillon Road that is adjacent to the project site. The project's eligibility for a Class 4 categorical exemption would not be negated by the exceptions listed under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. As the project would be a minor alteration to a private preserve and would improve wildlife habitat by preventing unauthorized use (i.e., off-road vehicles, dumping, poaching), a Notice of Exemption would satisfy CEQA requirements for the proposed project.

Considering the temporary nature of the project activities, nothing regarding the proposed Project's size, location, nature, or scope would be considered "unusual circumstances," and would not result in a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, the Categorical Exemption described in CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304 applies as the proposed project involves minor alterations to land. Conservancy staff have reviewed Aspen's Categorical Exemption Memorandum (see attached as Exhibit A), and if the grant is approved by the Board, recommend filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) based on the analysis. By filing a NOE with the California Office of Planning and Research, a shorter statute of limitations of 35 days commences for any challenge to the agency decision.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2025-04 approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to Oswit Land Trust in an amount not to exceed \$71,801 for its Happy Valley Restoration and Preservation Project, and Delegation of Authority to CVMC Executive Director to finalize and file the CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the CEQA State Clearinghouse and County of Riverside.

EXHIBIT A – Project Location (Map)



Happy Valley, located in Indio Hills along Dillon Road.

**RESOLUTION 2025-04 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**APPROVING A PROPOSITION 68 LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT
TO THE OSWIT LAND TRUST FOR ITS
HAPPY VALLEY RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION PROJECT**

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

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

WHEREAS, in accordance with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), the Conservancy operates its Proposition 68 Grant Program, which funds projects of local public agencies or nonprofit organizations that expand public access to safe parks, wildlife preserves, trails and recreation areas, mitigate the effects of climate change and encourage water conservation and drought preparedness; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2019, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under its Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines (Guidelines); and

WHEREAS, The Oswit Land Trust (OLT) is a California nonprofit corporation, recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service and is therefore a nonprofit organization eligible to receive funding under Proposition 68; and

WHEREAS, OLT submitted a Proposition 68 local assistance grant application for funding in the amount of \$71,801 for its Happy Valley Restoration and Preservation Project (the Project); and

WHEREAS, the Project will install approximately 467 locally sourced boulders along a 2,800 feet perimeter of OLT's Happy Valley property (Assessor Parcel Number 750-130-006 and 750-130-008) on Dillon Road to prevent unauthorized off-road vehicle use, reduce habitat disturbance, and protect sensitive desert ecosystems within a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC); and

WHEREAS, the Project will include the installation of bilingual interpretive and regulatory signage and the implementation of community cleanup and outdoor education programs in partnership with the Urban Conservation Corps, Southern California Mountains Foundation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, promoting public stewardship and ecological awareness; and

WHEREAS, through these actions, the Project will enhance habitat connectivity, improve long-term site protection, and advance community-based conservation and environmental education consistent with statewide goals under California's 30x30 Initiative; and

WHEREAS, OLT has a qualified professional staff, and a track record of successfully completing projects it undertakes; and

WHEREAS, the boulder barrier and associated site improvements constructed through the Project will have a useful life in excess of fifteen years and therefore qualify as capital improvements as defined by the general obligation bond laws; and

WHEREAS, the Project is Categorically Exempt as a Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15304; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to OLT in an amount not to exceed \$71,801 to support the Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of Proposition 68, including but not limited to those objectives set forth in the Conservancy Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines sections (a)1.d, (a)4 and (b); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to Oswit Land Trust (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$71,801 to support its Happy Valley Restoration and Preservation Project (the Grant); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a Proposition 68 local assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the Project, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to the Project, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the Project no later than December 31, 2026, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension;
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount of the grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;
4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the Project as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

BE IT FURTHER resolved that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in her absence the Board Chairperson, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant including filing the CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the CEQA State Clearinghouse and County of Riverside.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 17th day of November 2025, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Deborah McGarrey, Chairperson
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

ATTACHMENT 5 – November 17, 2025

Action Item 4.5 Adoption of Resolution 2025-05 consenting to and approving a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens for its Central Coachella Valley Pollinator Pathway Project

BACKGROUND

The Conservancy's Proposition 68 Grant Program seeks to expand public access to safe parks, wildlife preserves, trails and recreation areas, mitigate the effects of climate change and encourage water conservation and drought preparedness. In February 2019 the Conservancy issued a request for proposals with applications accepted on a continuous basis until funds are fully awarded. Currently, the remaining balance for Local Assistance grants under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Grant Program is \$3,591,072, should the Board consent staff recommendations and award grants from action items in this agenda, the remaining balance will be \$2,992,274.

In 2022, the Conservancy Board awarded \$133,981 to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens (TLD) for its *East Valley Pollinator Pathway Project* which was successfully completed under budget and demonstrated measurable conservation and community engagement outcomes. Through the Conservancy's grant, TLD was able to plant 674 plants of 25 different species (mostly native) in 32 different gardens, covering a total of 0.576 acres at 10 different schools within the Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD). Every school received a curriculum that was co-created with CVUSD teachers, as well as plant care guides for each of the species planted including watering guidelines to enable the successful maintenance of the gardens going forward. Schoolchildren and staff helped TLD do the initial plantings, enhancing their support and buy-in to the care of the plants.

In November 2024, the Conservancy Board awarded \$133,981 to TLD for its *Desert Hot Springs Pollinator Pathway Project* which is well underway with garden site identification, seed collection and propagation with an end goal to create 10-20 pollinator gardens using native plants on a total of less than five acres within the City of Desert Hot Springs and within the Palm Springs Unified School District. Through the Conservancy's grants, TLD has been able to not only provide education on the importance of native desert plants for pollination but is also encouraging water conservation and drought preparedness through stewardship of our urban and already disturbed spaces.

TLD is now requesting a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant from the Conservancy in the amount of \$526,997 for its proposed *Central Coachella Valley Pollinator Pathway Project* (Project), which builds upon the previous and current efforts to enhance vital

linkage corridors by improving access to nectar-producing plants and replacing invasives with drought-tolerant native pollinator plants for climate resilience.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TLD is proposing to enhance over 55 acres of conservation lands and establish up to 20 new community pollinator gardens throughout the central Coachella Valley (see Exhibit A, Project Location Map).

The proposed Project will be implemented in two primary phases:

- **Phase One (2026–2027):**
Restoration of approximately 53.5 acres within the Palm Hills and TLD Preserve lands through invasive removal, native out-planting, and volunteer-supported maintenance.
- **Phase Two (2028–2029):**
Creation of up to 20 pollinator gardens (approximately 2 acres in total) on Desert Sands Unified School District school campuses, public parks, and community spaces across underserved areas.

All plants will be locally propagated at TLD's Desert Plant Conservation Center using regionally collected seeds to maintain native gene diversity. Garden sites will feature bilingual educational signage and serve as hands-on learning spaces for students and community members. The project will expand habitat connectivity for native pollinators, increase biodiversity, and foster public engagement in drought-tolerant landscaping and environmental stewardship. Educational programming in English and Spanish, developed from existing TLD curricula which was developed with the previously funded projects referenced above, will further enhance community awareness of pollination, water conservation, and climate resilience.

Phase 1 will provide critical ecological foundations for the overall project by restoring approximately 53.5 acres within Palm Hills and TLD Preserve lands. Through the removal of invasive species and the out-planting of native vegetation propagated from regionally collected seed stock, this phase will significantly enhance habitat quality and ecological resilience. The restored areas will strengthen habitat connectivity for native pollinators and wildlife, promote biodiversity, and support natural ecosystem processes such as soil stabilization and water retention. In addition, the inclusion of bilingual interpretive signage and opportunities for student and community involvement in planting and monitoring will transform the restoration sites into living outdoor classrooms. These activities will foster greater public understanding of the role of native plants in sustaining pollinator

populations and building climate resilience, while cultivating local stewardship for desert habitats.

Phase 2 will build upon these efforts by extending the benefits of restoration into nearby urban areas through the creation of pollinator gardens featuring drought-resistant native plants and educational curricula for students. Once established, these native gardens will act as sites for educators to engage students on the value of native plants for water and biodiversity conservation, as well as teach them how pollination functions and how to care for the plants once they are in the ground. In so doing, the project will encourage families to enrich their own homes with drought-tolerant and pollinator-friendly landscaping. In addition to educating the public about the importance of native desert plants for pollination and drought resilience, these gardens will immediately increase the number of new resources for pollinators, and as the plants disperse seeds, they will naturally continue to improve the local landscape in the long term.

Furthermore, TLD offers a total of \$401,589 in matching support for the proposed project. The match is equal to 43% of the total project cost of \$928,586.

ANALYSIS

To be eligible for funding, a project must meet one or more of the objectives outlined in the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines (the Guidelines) that focus on habitat and wildlife protection, enhancing access to outdoor recreation, preserving cultural and historical resources, and responding to climate change with nature-based solutions. The proposed Project meets multiple objectives outlined in the Guidelines, including enhancing public access to outdoor spaces, promoting climate resilience, and benefiting disadvantaged communities. The proposed activities to create pollinator pathways would result in beneficial impacts to pollinating insects and birds by providing nutrition and habitat. The proposed Project would also be limited to at-grade landscaping that would not affect trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources. Furthermore, the limited at-grade landscaping would not have the potential to cause substantial adverse changes to the significance of a historical resource.

The project also demonstrates strong alignment with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan (Goal 2- Improving management of conserved lands and enhancing habitat values and Goal 3- Managing water resources and preparing for future human needs), and statewide conservation goals such as California's 30x30 Initiative and Outdoors for All framework. Based on those objectives and the evaluation criteria in the Guidelines, staff rated the

proposed Project as a priority for full funding with a score of 94/100, as discussed in more detail below.

PROPOSITION 68 OBJECTIVES

The proposed Project fulfills numerous statutory objectives as reflected in specified priorities of the Guidelines:

- **Guidelines Funding Priority (a)1.d: Community access projects, such as public education that focuses on natural resource management or land stewardship programs.** The proposed Project will promote sustainable, drought-resilient landscaping by engaging local schools, volunteers, and adjacent communities through pollinator garden creation and environmental education.
- **Guidelines Funding Priority (a)4: Protecting the open space, wildlife, scenic, biological, and recreational resources of the Coachella Valley.** The proposed Project will enhance habitat connectivity across the Coachella Valley and increase biodiversity while raising public awareness about the importance of pollinator conservation and native plant use.
- **Guidelines Priority (b): Economically Disadvantaged Community Investment and Co-Benefits.** The proposed Project will provide gardens and education programs in underserved schools to enhance equitable access to nature and promote local economic participation in disadvantaged communities.

OTHER PROGRAM AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

TLD's 43% match contribution exceeds the Conservancy's recommended minimum match of 20%. TLD has a highly qualified bilingual conservation team and experience partnering with local tribes, schools, and nonprofits. The organization has demonstrated capacity and accountability through multiple Conservancy-funded projects. The work qualifies as a capital expenditure under Proposition 68 and meets all statutory and programmatic requirements. In addition, TLD has agreed to comply with all programmatic requirements of Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines and will be required to enter into a grant agreement to that end.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE

All Conservancy funded projects must comply with applicable environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). TLD contracted with

Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) to secure CEQA compliance. The proposed Project would include creating pollinator pathways at several locations, which involves minor alterations to land including new gardening and landscaping to provide habitat and resources for pollinators, with no substantial grading or excavation; as a result, Aspen confirmed that the proposed Project qualifies for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption and is considered exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents.

Considering the temporary nature of the project activities, nothing regarding the proposed Project's size, location, nature, or scope would be considered "unusual circumstances," and would not result in a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, the Categorical Exemption described in CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304 (b)(d) applies as the proposed project involves minor alterations to land. Conservancy staff have reviewed Aspen's Categorical Exemption Memorandum (see attached as Exhibit A), and if the grant is approved by the Board, recommend filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) based on the analysis. By filing a NOE with the California Office of Planning and Research, a shorter statute of limitations of 35 days commences for any challenge to the agency decision.

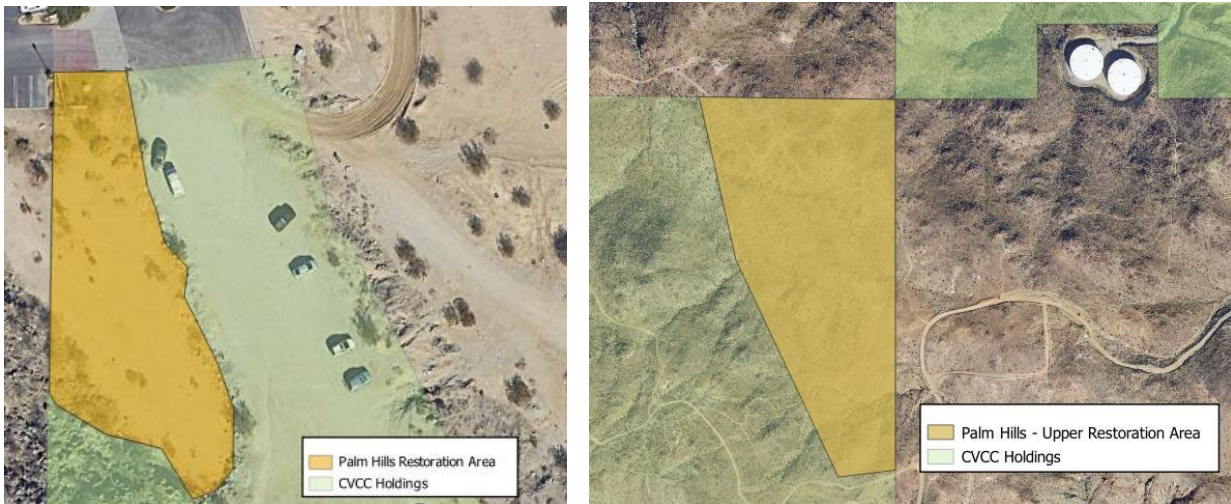
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2025-05 approving a Proposition 68 local assistance grant to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in an amount not to exceed \$526,997 for its Central Coachella Valley Pollinator Pathway Project, and Delegation of Authority to CVMC Executive Director to finalize and file the CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the CEQA State Clearinghouse and County of Riverside.

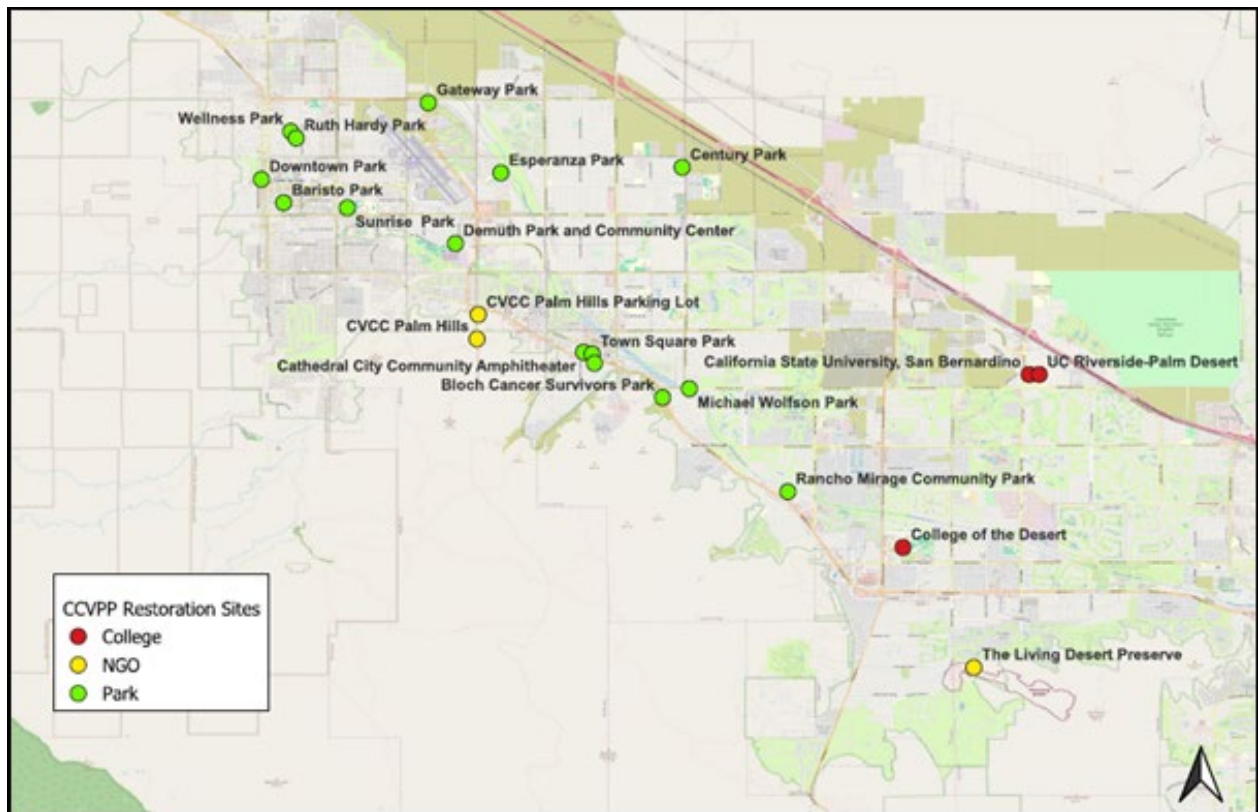
EXHIBIT A – Project Location (Map)



Map of Living Desert Zoo and Gardens Preserve, Phase 1 Pollinator Plant Location



Palm Hills Parking Lot Adjacent Area (left) and Upland Informal Trails Network (right, zoomed out) – Yellow Color Denotes Phase 1 Pollinator Plant Locations



Map of Potential Sites for Phase 2 Pollinator Gardens – Sites will be chosen based on CEQA coverage and owner permission.

**RESOLUTION 2025-05 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**APPROVING A PROPOSITION 68 LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT
TO THE LIVING DESERT ZOO AND GARDENS FOR ITS
CENTRAL COACHELLA VALLEY POLLINATOR PATHWAY PROJECT**

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

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

WHEREAS, in accordance with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), the Conservancy operates its Proposition 68 Grant Program, which funds projects of local public agencies or nonprofit organizations that expand public access to safe parks, wildlife preserves, trails and recreation areas, mitigate the effects of climate change and encourage water conservation and drought preparedness; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2019, the Conservancy issued a Request for Proposals for projects that are eligible for funding under its Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines (Guidelines); and

WHEREAS, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens (TLD) is a California nonprofit corporation, recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization by the Internal Revenue Service and is therefore a nonprofit organization eligible to receive funding under Proposition 68; and

WHEREAS, TLD submitted a Proposition 68 local assistance grant application for funding in the amount of \$526,997 for its Central Coachella Valley Pollinator Pathway Project (the Project); and

WHEREAS, the Project will restore over 55 acres of habitat and establish up to 20 public pollinator gardens across underserved communities of the Coachella Valley, advancing biodiversity, drought resilience, and equitable access to outdoor spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Project fulfills multiple objectives of the Proposition 68 Guidelines, including public education, habitat enhancement, and investment in disadvantaged communities, and aligns with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goals 2 and 3, the State's 30x30 Initiative, and Outdoors for All goals; and

WHEREAS, TLD has a qualified professional staff, strong relationships with local nonprofits, tribes and schools, along with a track record of successfully completing projects it undertakes; and

WHEREAS, the pollinator gardens constructed through the Project will have a useful life in excess of fifteen years and therefore are capital improvements as defined by the general obligation bond laws; and

WHEREAS, the Project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15304 (b) (Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land. (b) New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire-resistant landscaping); and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy wishes to authorize a local assistance grant to TLD in an amount not to exceed \$526,997 to support the Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved in regular session of the Governing Board of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy that the Board finds and determines that the Project meets the objectives of Proposition 68, including but not limited to those objectives set forth in the Conservancy Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines sections (a)1.d, (a)4 and (b); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves a Proposition 68 local assistance grant to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens (Grantee) in an amount not to exceed \$526,997.00 to support its Central Coachella Valley Pollinator Pathway Project (the Grant); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a condition of the grant is that the Grantee shall enter into a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant Agreement with the Conservancy, which shall contain provisions requiring the following:

1. That the Grantee will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, its contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Grantee's actions, omissions, or other conduct relating in any way to this agreement and the Project, including, but not limited to, any such losses, damages, or expenses arising out of (a) loss of or damage to the Project, and (b) injury to or death of persons;
2. That the Grantee must complete the Project no later than March 31, 2030, unless the Conservancy agrees in writing to an extension;
3. That should the Grantee violate the Grant Agreement in any material way, and fail to cure such violation upon written notice from the Conservancy as provided in the Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall reimburse the Conservancy for the full amount of the grant within thirty (30) days of a written demand from the Conservancy to do so;
4. That the Grantee shall maintain accounting records of how the grant sum was spent for a period of three years and shall make such records available for inspection by the Conservancy or the Department of Finance upon request by either agency;
5. That the Conservancy shall review and approve all material changes to the Project as described in the grant application prior to their implementation; and
6. Grantee will cause work on the project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the Conservancy that funds have been approved and that the project will be completed with reasonable diligence. If applicant cannot submit its first invoice for reimbursement to the Conservancy by one year from the date of the agreement, applicant will submit a statement of project progress appropriate to the project that provides real assurances that the project will be completed prior to the completion date. All final invoices for payment shall be submitted to the Conservancy within ninety (90) days of the completion date.

BE IT FURTHER resolved that the Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director, or in her absence the Board Chairperson, to execute any and all documents necessary to effect the grant including filing the CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the CEQA State Clearinghouse and County of Riverside.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 17th day of November 2025, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Deborah McGarrey, Chairperson
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

ATTACHMENT 6 – November 17, 2025

Action Item 4.6 Adoption of Resolution 2025-06 consenting to and approving the transfer of one parcel of land by the Friends of the Desert Mountains to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and establishing conditions for the termination and release of recorded restrictions, including the Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement (NOUGA) – The Board will vote regarding consent to and approval of transferring a 656-acre parcel of land, known as Riverside County Assessor Parcel Number 686-320-013, in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for conservation in perpetuity, and on establishing conditions for the termination and release of recorded restrictions, including the Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement (NOUGA).

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Conservancy awarded a Proposition 84-Open Space Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$425,000 to the Friends of the Desert Mountains (Friends) for the purchase of 656.68 acres (the Property) in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area. A condition of the grant agreement between the Conservancy and the Friends requires the Friends to obtain Conservancy consent prior to any transfer of the Property and to repay the grant or portion of it to the extent the Friends receive any compensation for the Property.

The Friends has requested the Conservancy's consent to transfer the Property (see Exhibit A), also known as Riverside County Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 686-320-013, to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the Tribe) for the purpose of conserving open space natural habitat and protecting historic and cultural resources near reservation fee land (see attached Exhibit B – Property Map). In this case, the Friends are transferring the Property to the Tribe and will not receive any payment in return. The Conservancy would need to release/void its recorded deed restrictions on the parcel. The Conservancy Board could consider the updated Deed restriction on the parcel as sufficient assurance of future conservation, allowing for the release of the Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement (NOUGA). Thus, the transfer would include conditions for the termination of recorded restrictions, including the NOUGA.

DISCUSSION

It has been the Conservancy's practice over the years to support its grantees in transferring conservation lands to entities in order to facilitate efficient and effective lands management, protection and monitoring. In addition to conservation needs, effective protection of this remote property is critical as it is considered ancestral tribal territory with cultural artifacts. Under the Governor's 2020 Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands, it is the explicit policy of the State to promote California tribes' co-management of, or access to, tribal lands and also to work cooperatively with tribes seeking to acquire lands. This land transfer fulfills all of those objectives, in addition to the objectives identified in the original grant.

Generally, where the land to be transferred will be held for conservation purposes consistent with the Conservancy grant, the Conservancy has not required that the grantee sell the land (i.e., in order to repay the grant) and simply forgives the grant and terminates the NOUGA with the condition that a deed restriction be recorded on the property with the same requirement of the new Property title holder to obtain Conservancy consent prior to any transfer of the Property. Here, the Agua Caliente Tribal Council adopted a resolution 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 (see attached Exhibit C-Tribal Resolution 52-25). Additionally, the Tribe will update the recorded deed during the escrow process to reflect that the "use of the burdened property shall be used only for conservation in its current undeveloped state." Importantly, 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.

As each of those purposes is a part of the Conservancy's mission and consistent with the terms of Proposition 84, which funded the original acquisition of the parcel by Friends, the transfer of the Property to the Tribe will both improve efficiency in conservation lands management and further the Conservancy's mission, Proposition 84 and State objectives.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2025-06 consenting to and approving the land transfer of one parcel, APN 686-320-013, consisting of 656.86 acres in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, by the Friends of the Desert Mountains to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and establishing conditions for the termination and release of recorded restrictions, including the Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement (NOUGA).

EXHIBIT A

FODM REQUESTS CVMC CONSENT TO PARCEL TRANSFER



Friends of the
Desert Mountains

51-500 Highway 74
P.O. Box 1281
Palm Desert, CA 92261

October 23, 2025

Ms. Elizabeth King, Executive Director
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
42600 Cook St., Suite 219
Palm Desert, CA 92260

RE: Request for Approval to transfer APN #686-320-013 to Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Dear Elizabeth,

This letter is a formal request by Friends of the Desert Mountains ("FODM") to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy ("CVMC") for approval of the terms of transfer for one parcel (APN #686-320-013, the "Property"), consisting of approximately 656.68 acres, to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the "Tribe"). FODM proposed to transfer the land to the Tribe and will not receive payment in exchange. The Tribe has enacted a resolution agreeing to accept the Property for "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".

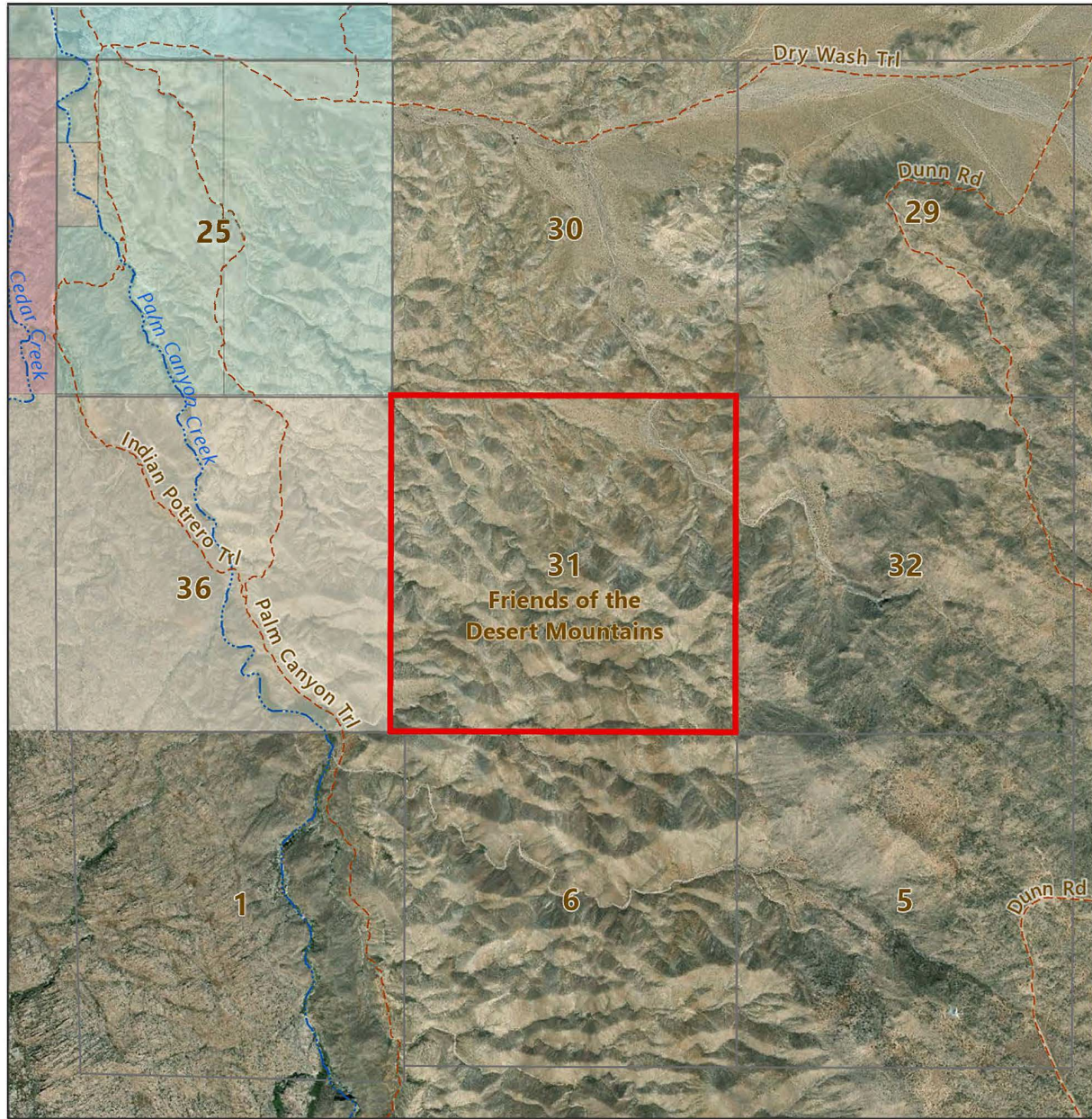
The Property was purchased on June 22, 2018 using a CVMC Grant in the amount of \$425,674.00. Under Grant Agreement 68 between CVMC and FODM, FODM is required to obtain the consent of CVMC for any transfer, and to repay the grant or portion of it to the extent FODM receives any payment for the Property. As FODM is not receiving consideration for the transfer, we also request that the Conservancy release it from any liability for repayment of the grant.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Tammy Martin
Executive Director

EXHIBIT B PROPERTY MAP



AGUA CALIENTE INDIAN RESERVATION

TOWNSHIP 5S, RANGE 5E, SECTION 31

APN 686-320-013

- Tribal
- Tribal Outside Reservation
- Allotted and Not Leased
- Fee
- Off Res
- Township Sections

Subject Property

**Tribal Resolution
No. XX-25
Exhibit A**

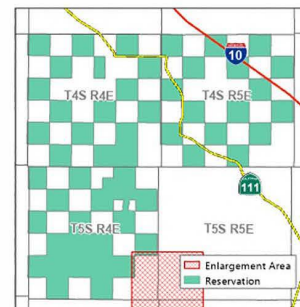
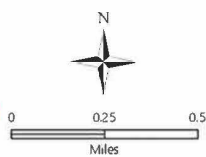


EXHIBIT C

TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION



AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL

REID D. MILANOVICH CHAIRMAN • ANTHONY W. PURNEL VICE CHAIRMAN
SAVANA R. SAUBEL SECRETARY-TREASURER • JOHN R. PRECKWINKLE III MEMBER • VIRGINIA SIVA-GILLESPIE MEMBER

RESOLUTION NO. 52-25

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 of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians adopted by the Tribe on June 28, 1955 (the "**Constitution**"); and

WHEREAS, the Tribe, acting by and through its duly elected Tribal Council and pursuant to Articles II and IV (a) of the Constitution, exercises inherent sovereign authority and jurisdiction over the territory within the exterior boundaries of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation (the "**Reservation**") and over other lands which may be added to the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V (a), (b), (m), and (r) of the Constitution, the Tribal Council, among other things, is empowered to administer the affairs and manage the business of the Band; to regulate the uses and disposition of tribal property; to protect and preserve tribal property; to enact ordinances and resolutions pertaining to tribal affairs and to take all proper means to enforce the same; to accept land returns of property; and to enter into and to perform its duties under contracts with local non-Indian governments; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe is making every effort to protect and expand its existing land base through the repatriation and acquisition of lands within, contiguous to, or in close proximity to the Reservation or within the Tribe's traditional use area; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe desires to acquire from the Friends of the Desert Mountains ("**FODM**") through title transfer that certain real property more particularly described in **Exhibit A – Legal Description**, which is incorporated herein by this reference, consisting of approximately 656 acres and located in Riverside County, California (the "**Subject Property**"); and

WHEREAS, FODM's title transfer of the Subject Property is conditioned upon preserving the undeveloped state of the Subject Property in perpetuity pursuant to a recorded grant deed containing a deed restriction (the "**Grant Deed with Deed Restriction**"); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, at its regular meeting of October 21, 2025, considered the acquisition of the Subject Property and the proposed Grant Deed with Deed Restriction attached hereto as **Exhibit B – Grant Deed**; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe now desires to acquire the Subject Property through title transfer in accordance with the Grant Deed with Deed Restriction.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians that:

1. All of the recitals set forth above are true and correct and constitute the findings of the Tribal Council.
2. The acceptance and acquisition of the Subject Property is in furtherance of the Tribe's goal to protect the natural environment and preserve tribal cultural resources within its traditional use area.



3. The Tribal Council hereby approves the Grant Deed with Deed Restriction in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, together with such modifications, additions, and deletions as may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Planning Officer after consultation with the General Counsel, provided that such changes do not materially alter the rights or obligations of the Tribe under said Grant Deed.
4. The Tribal Council hereby approves the Tribe's acceptance and acquisition of the Subject Property in accordance with the Grant Deed with Deed Restrictions.
5. The Tribal Council hereby authorizes the Chief Planning Officer, or her designee, to take whatever other steps that are necessary to: (a) initiate revisions to the zoning map and/or Chapter 9.04 of the Agua Caliente Tribal Code to incorporate the Subject Property; (b) initiate a fee-to-trust application for the Subject Property 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; and (c) initiate a reservation proclamation request for the Subject Property 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.
6. The Tribal Council hereby approves the Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit C**; provided that no modification, amendment, or alteration of the Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity shall be effective unless such modification, amendment, or alteration is expressly approved by further action of the Tribal Council; and provided further that the Tribal Chairman or his designee, including, but not limited to, the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Planning Officer are authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit C**, and to take other actions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution, consistent with the foregoing restrictions.
7. This Resolution shall be effective as of the date of its adoption.

DATED: October 21, 2025

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, noticed, convened and held on this 21st day of October, 2025; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 4-0-0 and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Savana R. Saubel, Secretary-Treasurer

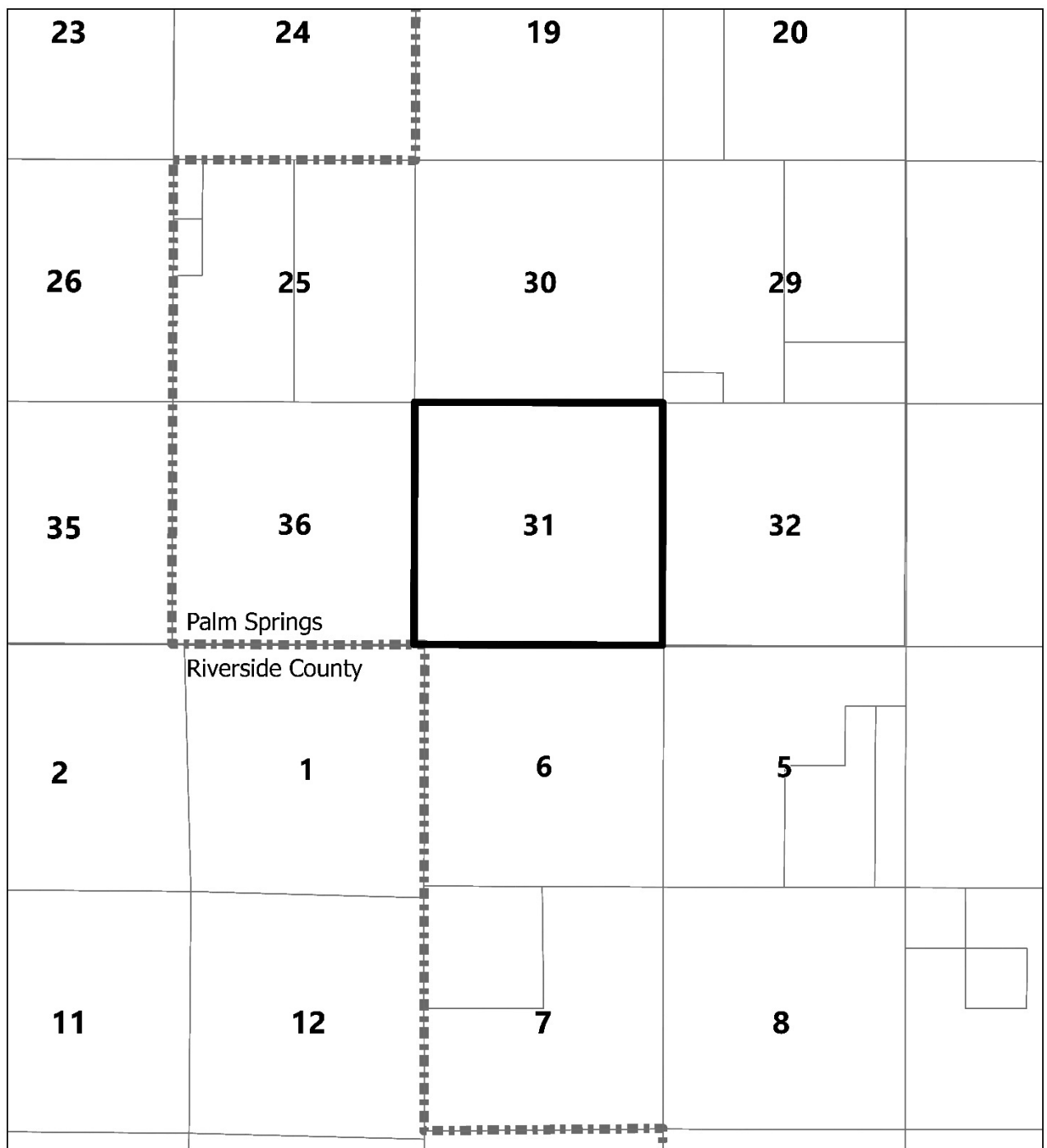


**EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND IS DESCRIBED BELOW AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST, SAN BERNARDINO BASE AND MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF

APN: 686-320-013



TOWNSHIP 5S, RANGE 5E
SECTION 31 (APN 686-320-013)

 Subject Property (656 acres)

 Assessor Parcels

 Political Jurisdictions

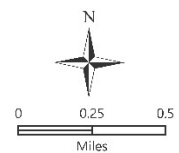


EXHIBIT B

GRANT DEED

RECORDING REQUESTED BY:

Stewart Title of California Inc.

**WHEN RECORDED MAIL DOCUMENT
AND TAX STATEMENT TO:**

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, California 92264
Attention: Margaret Park, Chief Planning Officer

ORDER NO.

APN: 686-320-013

TRA: 011-006

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

GRANT DEED

THE UNDERSIGNED GRANTOR(s) DECLARE(s)

DOCUMENTARY TRANSFER TAX IS \$0.00 per R&T Code § 11922, Government Code §§ 6103 and 27383

☐ Monument Preservation Fee is:

☒ computed on full value of property conveyed, or

☐ computed on full value less value of liens or encumbrances remaining at time of sale.

☐ Unincorporated area ☒ City of Palm Springs

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,

Friends of the Desert Mountains, a California non-profit corporation

hereby GRANT(S) to Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, California, a federally recognized Indian tribe, the following described property in the City of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, State of California:

SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST, SAN BERNARDINO BASE AND MERIDIAN,
ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF.

This Grant Deed is subject to the conditions set forth on Attachment 1 attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

DATE: _____

Friends of the Desert Mountains, a California non-profit corporation

By: _____
Tammy Martin, Executive Director

This Notary Acknowledgement is attached to a document entitled GRANT DEED.

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF _____)

On _____ before me, _____

(insert name and title of the officer)

personally appeared _____, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature _____ (Seal)

**EXHIBIT B – ATTACHMENT 1
Deed Restriction**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Landowner Name: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Project Title: P84-MSHCP/NCCP-Acquisition
Agreement Number: 38500000CVMC068
Authority: Chapter 14, Statutes of 2007
Program: Proposition 84 – Open Space Acquisitions
Term of Land Tenure: Perpetuity

Project Period of Performance: Upon execution – **Insert Date**

The property described in this deed was purchased in part or in whole with grant funds provided by the State of California by and through the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (the “**State**”) under the Proposition 84-Open Space Acquisitions Program and is referred to herein as the “**Burdened Property**.” The Burdened Property currently consists of +/-656.68 acres in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area within the City of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, California and was the subject of a baseline assessment conducted on October 8, 2024, as evidenced in the attached Annual Monitoring and Management Report attached hereto as Attachment 1 (the “**Baseline Assessment**”). The Baseline Assessment concludes that the Burdened Property appears “visibly undisturbed.” Landowner desires and intends that in order to provide public benefit and meet the terms of the funding, the Burdened Property shall be used only for purposes consistent with the funding. Use of the Burdened Property is restricted and shall exclusively be for conservation in its current, undeveloped state in perpetuity. If access for the public ever needs to change location, scope, or scale, Landowner shall seek consent from the State, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. Unless otherwise expressly identified in this deed, all development rights are extinguished. Landowner acknowledges the obligations, restrictions, extinguished development rights, and other dedications in this deed provide a benefit to the Burdened Property and all other adjacent property, as well as the People of the State of California, and the terms of this deed shall run with the land and bind all successive owners in interest consistent with Civil Code section 815 et seq. except as otherwise set forth herein. No other uses are permitted or granted herein, and any violation of the obligations, restrictions, or dedications set forth herein shall result in the automatic transfer of title to the Burdened Property to the State of California; provided, however, title to the Burdened Property shall not automatically transfer to the State of California if title to the Burdened Property has been transferred to the United States of America and held in trust for the benefit of Landowner. Except as otherwise set forth herein, the Burdened Property (including any portion of it or any interest in it) may not be sold or transferred without the written approval of the State. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, provided the purposes for which the funding was awarded are expressly assumed by the purchaser as part of the purchase agreement and prior to the close of escrow. Notwithstanding the foregoing, title to the Burdened Property may be transferred to the United States of America without the approval of the State if said Property is held in trust for the benefit of Landowner, and the Property and Landowner are subject to the obligations, restrictions, or dedications set forth herein. This deed runs with the land and Landowner, and any successor in interest, shall maintain and operate the Burdened Property in accordance with this deed. Obligations for operation and maintenance of the Burdened Property may be abandoned only upon the written approval of the State and only for good cause. Good cause

includes, but is not limited to, natural disasters that destroy the Burdened Property. Good cause shall not include more expedient or economically beneficial development. The Burdened Property, or any portion thereof, may not be used for additional mitigation without the written permission of the State. The Burdened Property, or any portion thereof, may not be used as security for any debt. The obligations, restrictions, and dedications imposed on the Burdened Property through this deed shall run with the land and pass with each and every portion of the Burdened Property and shall apply to and bind the respective successors in interest to the Burdened Property.

EXHIBIT B - ATTACHMENT 2

Baseline Assessment

[To be attached behind this coversheet]

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Annual Monitoring and Management Report

Grant Number: CVMC068 - Schlesinger

Grantee: Friends of the Desert Mountains

Assessor Parcel Number(s): 686-320-013 (567 acres)

Conservation Area(s): Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains N.M.

Last Inspection Date: 8/15/2023 **Current Inspection Date:** 10/8/24

Access to Property: Remote property - Aerial inspection

Property Condition: Parcel appears visibly undistributed and free from dumping
and trespassing.

Description of management actions undertaken (*NOTE: for remote parcels there may not have been any actions identified*):

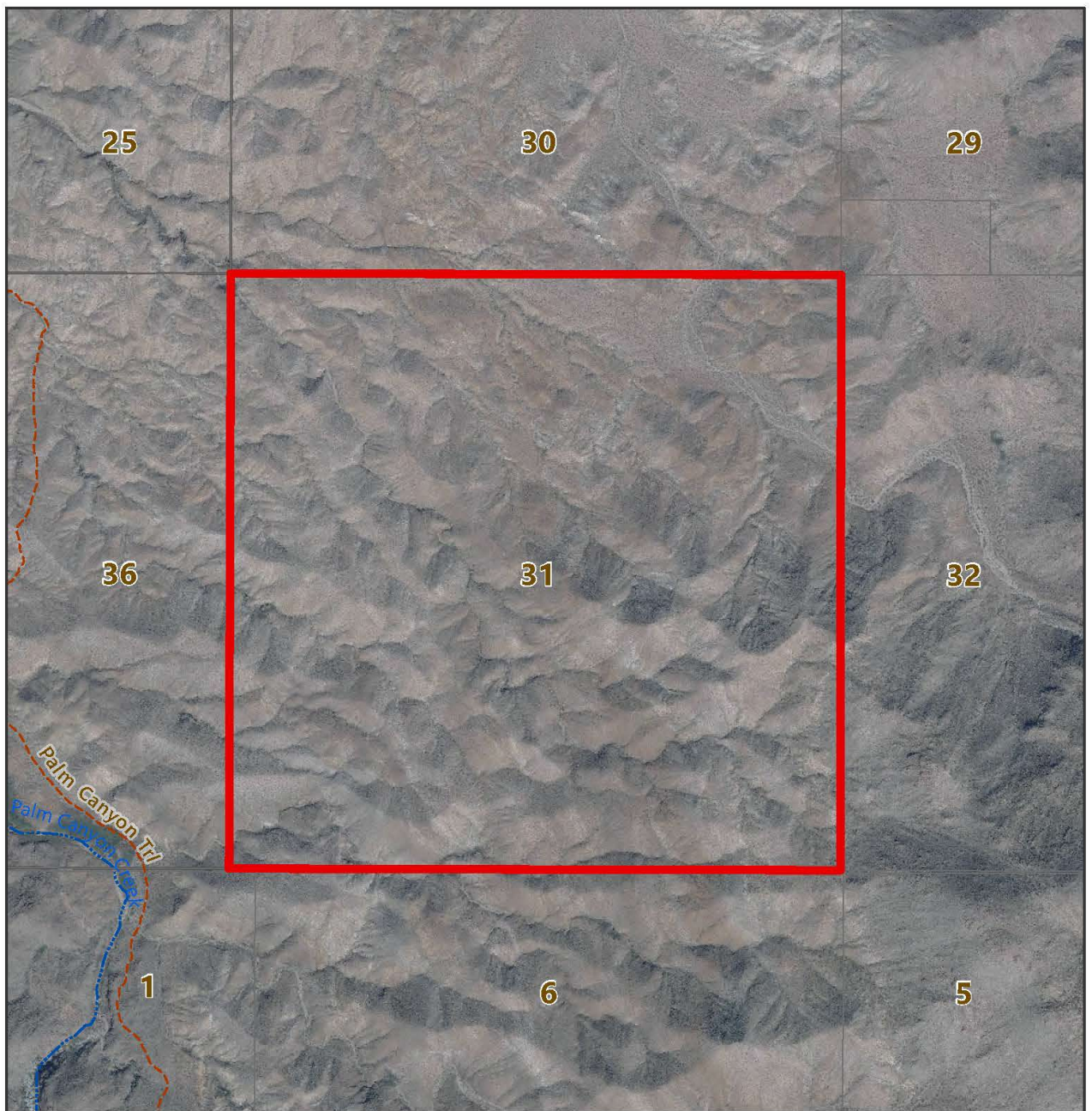
Parcel appear visibly undisturbed. Accessed via satellite imagery.

Expenditures by the grantee (*staff time, equipment, etc.*) **and any volunteer time utilized to effect monitoring and management actions:**

An aerial site inspection was conducted by a FODM staff member. They then wrote the proceeding site inspection form.

Management need, if any, for the coming year and funding sources:

No direct physical management was assessed to be necessary at this time other than conducting annual inspections.



SECTION 31

CURRENT CONDITION

APN 686-320-013

-  Subject Property (656 acres)
-  Assessor's Parcels



EXHIBIT C

LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

This Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity (this "**Limited Waiver**") is made and entered into by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe ("**Tribe**"), acting through its duly authorized Tribal Chairman, for the limited purposes and upon the terms set forth herein.

By executing this Limited Waiver, Tribe does not waive, limit, or alter its tribal sovereign immunity from unconsented suit, arbitration, or other form of compulsory proceeding, whether judicial or otherwise, in any manner, to any extent, or for any purpose, except as expressly set forth in this Limited Waiver. Tribe does hereby waive its tribal sovereign immunity to the extent provided below, but only on the terms and to the extent set forth below, and subject to each and every one of the conditions and limitations set forth below:

- (1) This Limited Waiver provided by Tribe is in favor solely of the state of California (the "**State**"), on behalf of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy ("**CVMC**").
- (2) This Limited Waiver pertains to Tribe itself only, and not to any subordinate entity, enterprise, affiliate, instrumentality, department, committee, officer, Tribal Council member, agent, employee, representative, or any other party holding any position or performing any function for Tribe.
- (3) This Limited Waiver is provided for the sole purpose of allowing the State, on behalf of CVMC or any successor agency, to enforce as against Tribe the duties and obligations of Tribe under that certain Grant Deed (with Deed Restrictions) dated [date] and recorded on [date] as Instrument No. [REDACTED], Official Records of Riverside County, California (the "**Grant Deed**").
- (4) Before seeking to enforce any provision of the Grant Deed and after the lapse of any applicable cure period, the State shall first present to Tribe a concise and simple written statement ("**Notice of Dispute**") of a breach, and the basis therefore, of one or more of Tribe's duties and obligations under the Grant Deed ("**Dispute**"). Tribe, in consultation with the State, will then schedule a convenient time and place, within fifteen (15) days of its receipt of a Notice of Dispute, for authorized senior representatives of Tribe and the State to meet and confer in person regarding the Notice of Dispute, in an attempt to reach an informal resolution of the Dispute. If Tribe does not so schedule and participate in such a meeting within such timeframe, then the requirement of this subsection (4) shall be deemed to have been met. If the State does not agree to schedule and/or participate in such a meeting, Tribe, in consultation with the State, will then schedule a convenient time and place, within fifteen (15) days thereafter to meet and confer as described above. If the State does not so schedule and/or participate in such second meeting, then the State may take no further action on the Dispute or the State's Notice of Dispute.
- (5) If the conference described in subsection (4) following a Notice of Dispute is unsuccessful in resolving the Dispute set forth in the Notice of Dispute, or Tribe refuses to schedule or participate in such conference, then Tribe hereby provides this Limited Waiver of its tribal sovereign immunity from unconsented proceedings solely for the purpose of permitting the State to bring an action to resolve the Dispute in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction as appropriate (together, the "**Designated Court**"). Note, the State will do its best to work with the Tribe to seek venue in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Riverside, or the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Eastern Division, both sitting in Riverside, California. Regardless, the Designated Court shall have the power and authority to hear any and all issues of law and fact arising from or relating to resolution of the Dispute, and to grant legal and equitable remedies in accordance with the provisions of this Limited Waiver. The Designated Court shall have no power or authority to vary or modify this Limited Waiver. Nothing in this Limited Waiver shall be deemed or construed as a waiver of the Tribe's sovereign immunity in any other respect, forum, or proceeding.

or as a consent to the jurisdiction of any court, tribunal, or forum other than the Designated Court for the sole purpose of resolving the Dispute described herein. Further, nothing in this Limited Waiver shall be deemed or construed as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the United States of America or any of its agencies, departments, officers, or instrumentalities.

- (6) The remedies available in any action brought pursuant to this Limited Waiver shall be strictly limited to those legal and equitable remedies expressly authorized herein and available under applicable law. The Designated Court may award declaratory and injunctive relief, damages, and other remedies as may be necessary to enforce the terms of the Grant Deed and all deed restrictions, and this Limited Waiver; provided, however, that no award shall extend beyond the scope of the Dispute identified in the Notice of Dispute, and no punitive damages, exemplary damages, or any other form of damages inconsistent with this Limited Waiver shall be awarded. Nothing in this Limited Waiver shall be deemed or construed to authorize any remedy or relief other than as expressly set forth herein, or to expand the Tribe's waiver of sovereign immunity beyond the limited purposes and forums specified above.
- (7) If injunctive relief is sought and awarded, such relief may only compel Tribe to perform Tribe's duties and obligations under the Grant Deed, or to refrain from some action that it has explicitly promised not to take or perform pursuant to the Grant Deed. If monetary relief is sought and awarded, such award shall be limited to compensatory damages and costs and attorneys' fees if awarded by the Designated Court and shall not include indirect, consequential, tort, punitive, or non-compensatory damages.
- (8) In no event shall this Limited Waiver (i) subject any property or assets of Tribe, which are held in trust for the benefit of Tribe by the United States of America, to any judgment, lien, attachment, or other process of law; or (ii) constitute a waiver of any rights, privileges, or defenses otherwise available to Tribe, except as expressly stated herein.
- (9) This Limited Waiver shall be governed by and construed in accordance with federal law.

This Limited Waiver is executed by the Tribal Chairman or his designee pursuant to the authorization granted by Resolution No. [REDACTED] of the Tribal Council adopted on [date].

[Signature on the following page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity on behalf of the Tribe as of October [REDACTED], 2025.

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Reid D. Milanovich
Chairman

**RESOLUTION 2025-06 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**CONSENTING TO AND APPROVING THE LAND TRANSFER
BY THE FRIENDS OF THE DESERT MOUNTAINS
TO THE AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS
OF ONE PARCEL CONSISTING OF 656.68 ACRES IN THE
SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION AREA**

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, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33601(e), the Conservancy operates a grant program funded by Proposition 84 that provides funding for nonprofit organization to purchase conservation lands with the Coachella Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Desert Mountains (Friends) is a nonprofit organization that received a Proposition 84-Open Space Acquisition Grant from the Conservancy in the amount of \$425,000 (the Grant) pursuant to Conservancy Resolution 2017-22, to acquire the 656.68 acres located in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area also identified as Assessor Parcel Number 686-320-013 (the Property), for conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Friends acquired the Property on June 22, 2018, and have managed it for conservation continuously since then; and

WHEREAS, the Property is located near Tribal fee land of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (the Tribe) on one corner and directly adjacent to Bureau of Land Management; 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 52-25, enacted

October 21, 2025 (the Tribal Resolution), which states that the Property is being acquired for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Friends wish to transfer the Property to the Tribe for management in accordance with the Tribal Resolution, and the Friends will receive no payment for the Property; 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 management 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 land transfer of the Property by Friends to the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy terminates the NOUGA.

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 by the Friends of the Desert Mountains of the Property to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, subject to the conditions that:

1. The NOUGA is terminated; and
2. The Property shall be managed in accordance with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Council Resolution 52-25, adopted October 21, 2025, and the updated recorded deed with restrictions;
3. The Friends shall not be required to repay the Grant because no compensation is being paid to the Friends by the Tribe in exchange for the land transfer; and
4. The Friends will agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Conservancy and the State of California, their contractors, officers, directors, agents or employees against any and all claims, liability, demands, damages, debts, judgments, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or in any way connected to the Conservancy's consent and approval of the transfer of the Property or the release of the NOUGA on the parcel; and

BE IT FURTHER resolved that upon transfer of the Property to the Tribe without consideration to the Friends, the Grant Agreement and NOUGA shall terminate and the Friends shall be released of any obligations thereunder; and

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

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 17th day of November 2025, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Deborah McGarrey, Chairperson
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

ATTACHMENT 7 – November 17, 2025

Action Item 4.7 Adoption of Resolution 2025-07 Consenting to and Approving Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines

BACKGROUND

Proposition 4 was enacted by the voters on November 5, 2024, to fund safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparedness, and clean air (Bond Act of 2024). Under Chapter 6, *Protect Biodiversity and Accelerating Nature-Based Climate Solutions*, the bond provides \$11 million for the Conservancy. On September 17, 2025, the Legislature approved the appropriation of \$2.2 million dollars to the Conservancy to implement the Proposition 4 Grant Program.

Conservancy staff drafted Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines (Guidelines) for local assistance grants to fund projects that reduce climate change impacts on communities, wildlife, and natural resources while increasing public access. Draft Guidelines were released for Public Comment and Tribal Consultation on July 10, 2025, which provided the public and Tribes with the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Guidelines; the comment period closed on October 10, 2025. Staff compiled and reviewed comments, incorporating revisions as applicable to the draft Guidelines. These guidelines are attached as Exhibit A for consideration and adoption by the Board.

DISCUSSION

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 2025-07 approving the Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines.

EXHIBIT A
DRAFT PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY



PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM

Funded by the
Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond
Act of 2024 (Proposition 4)



Grant Guidelines

DRAFT

Direct all inquiries, correspondence and grant applications to:

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

42-600 Cook Street, Suite 219

Palm Desert, CA 92260

(760) 776-5026

www.cvmc.ca.gov

Last Updated – 11/03/2025

I. Introduction

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (“Conservancy”) was established in 1991 by California Public Resources Code Section 33501 to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Coachella Valley and its surrounding mountains, which include the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains and Sand to Snow National Monuments, as well as portions of Joshua Tree National Park. The Conservancy has a history of working efficiently with state and federal agencies, Riverside County, local cities and Tribes, and numerous nonprofit organizations to preserve open space, wildlife, scarce water resources and historical artifacts through conservation land acquisition, habitat management and restoration, and educational and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond of 2024 (“Proposition 4”) was enacted by the voters on November 5, 2024, to fund \$10 billion in public improvements throughout the State of California. The primary objective of Proposition 4 is 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 project investments aim to assist communities that have been historically underserved by allocating a minimum of 10 percent of available funds to *severely disadvantaged communities*¹ and a minimum of 40 percent of available funds to *disadvantaged communities*².

The Conservancy is committed to ensuring that all Proposition 4 investments advance environmental equity and resilience by directing meaningful and measurable benefits to communities most vulnerable to climate impacts. This program is designed to be consistent with the *California Natural Resources Agency Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment (2024)*, which provides statewide guidance for implementing equity, accountability, and community engagement provisions under Proposition 4.

II. Overview of the Conservancy Grant Program

The Conservancy has approximately \$11 million available for local assistance grants over the life of its Proposition 4 Grant Program. The minimum local assistance grant amount is \$50,000 for implementation projects. The Conservancy plans to issue one Notice of Funding Availability (“NOFA”) in 2025, with applications accepted continuously thereafter. The NOFA will be posted on the Conservancy’s website, and will be sent to local media, public agencies, Tribes and nonprofit organizations. Conservancy staff will undertake

¹ Communities with median household incomes less than 60 percent of the statewide average.

² Communities with median household incomes less than 80 percent of the statewide average.

extensive outreach to encourage applications from economically disadvantaged communities.

III. **Eligible Applicants**

State and local public agencies (including joint powers authorities), nonprofit organizations with 501(c)3 tax exempt status and Tribes recognized by the state or federal governments are eligible.

IV. **Use of Proposition 4 Funds**

The Conservancy has identified numerous needs in the Coachella Valley related to reducing the risks of climate change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increasing public access, which cannot be addressed with existing Conservancy bond funds.

(a) **Funding Priorities.** Projects that implement the following Conservancy objectives as listed below will be eligible for support from Proposition 4.

1. **Objective 1: Reduce risks of climate change impact upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources.** This includes:

- I. Acquisition Projects that:
 - i. Preserve and maintain natural and cultural areas that are critical to and for species that are endangered or threatened or that are critical to the health of the natural ecosystem.
 - ii. Support land conservation, where conserved land reduces greenhouse gas emissions by both preventing emissions and sequestering existing gases.
 - iii. Support the 30x30 initiative in acquiring private lands and returning them to conservation or expanding existing conservation areas or create new ones and protect vital ecosystems.
 - iv. Support the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), a joint Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan designed to protect the regions exceptional biodiversity and protection of natural habitats, ensuring the long-term survival of species and maintaining ecosystems health in the Coachella Valley.
- II. Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Projects that:
 - i. Remove invasive plants that contribute to global warming, use excessive amounts of water or harm endangered or threatened species of plants or animals and replace them with native plants.
 - ii. Enhance watershed related natural features, such as washes, channels, streams or riverbeds.

- iii. Improve groundwater supply by enhancing flow into the aquifer through washes, alluvia fans, or streams.
- iv. Improve desert ecosystem through restoration work that supports biodiversity, resilience to disturbances, and the ability to support a wide range of plants and animal life, including healthy soil, dust suppression, and clean water.
- v. Prevent wildfire through the removal of invasive plant species to enhance fire prevention by reducing fuel loads, preventing fire spread, and allowing native fire-resistance vegetation to thrive.
- vi. *Improve the ability of local ecosystems to cope with climate change–related rainfall changes*
- vii. *Enhance community climate resilience through native tree planting, desert-appropriate landscaping, and reduction of urban heat island effects.*
- viii. Restore or improve habitat connectivity and wildlife linkages that allow for species movement and migration, enabling adaptation to changing climatic conditions. Such projects may include restoration of corridors or landscape features that support movement in response to temperature shifts, drought, or natural disturbances such as wildfire or flooding, and that help maintain genetic diversity and ecosystem resilience.

2. Objective 2: Increase Public Access. Eligible projects include:

- I. Enhancing access to outdoor recreation, including but not limited to:
 - i. Visitor-serving improvements (including buildings, athletic and visitor center facilities, native plant landscaping and shade infrastructure), in parks, public open spaces or recreational areas.
 - ii. Trails through urban or natural landscapes, whether for hiking, biking, walking or equestrian use.
 - iii. Reduce urban heat island impacts and connect people with natural spaces and habitats in urban and peri-urban settings.
- II. Community access project improvements, such as disabled access improvements, interpretative features that provide education about habitat conservation, cultural artifacts or local history.
- III. Restoration projects that support natural features and habitat areas that expand public access and enhances access to outdoor recreation
- IV. Preserving cultural or historical resources, including but not limited to:
 - i. Stabilization or restoration of historically significant buildings, monuments or infrastructure features.
 - ii. Protection of archeological or cultural artifacts.

- (b) **Co-Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities.** Projects that benefit Disadvantaged or Severely Disadvantaged Communities, as identified by

Vulnerable Communities Platform³, CalEnviroScreen 4.0⁴ or a similar tool approved by CVMC, will be given top priority. The Conservancy seeks to invest in these areas to mitigate the disproportionately negative impact to residents, particularly children and senior citizens. The Conservancy will allocate a minimum of 40 percent of available funds to disadvantaged communities and 10 percent to severely disadvantaged communities (as those terms are defined in footnotes 1 and 2) and other areas traditionally underserved by outdoor access or recreational amenities. Projects that serve disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities should provide one or more of the following types of benefits, consistent with the *Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment (2024)*:

- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
 - Keeping ecosystems, such as forest, wetlands, and grasslands, healthy and resilient
 - Connecting natural areas so wildlife and plants can move safely and adapt to climate change
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and storing carbon in nature to help slow climate change
 - Reducing risk of communities to wildfires, floods, and other climate impacts
 - Expanding access to nature and recreation for all communities
- (c) Definition of Meaningful and Direct Benefits - For the purposes of these Guidelines, “meaningful and direct benefits” are measurable, tangible, and lasting environmental or community benefits that are clearly linked to the funded activity and developed in collaboration with the communities served. Benefits must directly improve conditions for disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, or underserved communities, rather than providing incidental or indirect improvements.

V. Project Requirements

- (a) All projects must comply with applicable environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- (b) All applicants must agree to comply with the state audit requirements applicable to Proposition 4 funding, including that the grantee retain for at least three years following final payment, satisfactory financial records relating to the project and make them available to the Conservancy upon request.
- (c) All projects must comply with applicable federal, state and local permitting requirements.

³ The Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) is a statewide data and mapping tool that helps identify where climate hazards and social vulnerabilities intersect across California—supporting agencies, local governments, and communities in making equitable, data-driven decisions for climate adaptation, policy, and investment.

⁴ A tool that shows cumulative impact in California communities by census track, face disproportionate health disparities due to poor air quality, exposure to harmful pollution, and lack of public amenities and services.

- (d) Projects involving construction, demolition, restoration and similar activities must comply with prevailing wage requirements (except to the extent certified conservation corps or volunteer services are used), and if applicable, public contracting laws.
- (e) Any acquisitions must be from willing sellers for a price that does not exceed the fair market value of the property as determined by a Conservancy-approved appraisal, and the property acquired will be encumbered with a deed restriction in favor of the Conservancy that requires perpetual use of the property for conservation or other purposes consistent with the Conservancy's mission.
- (f) Projects are encouraged to include the California Conservation Corps or certified conservation corps where feasible such as the Urban Conservation Corps.
- (g) No funds will be granted to complete environmental mitigation requirements of other projects, except where the grant funds would support only aspects of the project that exceed the minimum mitigation requirements of the applicable permit condition.
- (h) Staff costs and expenses that are related to the funded projects and are included in the approved project budget may be paid with grant funds.
- (i) Matching funds or cost-sharing is encouraged. Projects that demonstrate a match (cash or in-kind) will receive priority consideration. Cost share refers to the portion of total project costs not funded by the Conservancy and provided by the applicant or other partners through cash, in-kind services, or materials. While not required, projects that include a meaningful cost share will receive priority consideration during evaluation. Applicants must identify the source, type, and dollar amount of all matching contributions in their project budget and indicate whether each contribution is secured or proposed. Cost share contributions must directly support the proposed project and be expended during the grant term. Eligible forms of cost share include staff or volunteer time, materials or equipment, land value contributions, or other direct project expenses. Overhead or administrative costs, endowments, and unrelated management expenses are not eligible. Documentation of secured matching funds or commitments may be required prior to execution of the grant agreement.
- (j) The Conservancy does not fund indirect or overhead costs. All project budgets should be limited to direct costs necessary to implement the project
- (k) Grantees whose projects are funded must execute a grant agreement with the Conservancy that includes all provisions required by Proposition 4 and state law, as well as the Conservancy's standard insurance and indemnification provisions. *(Copies available upon request.)*
- (l) Grantees who receive funding for acquisitions and conservation easements are required to provide spatial data to the California Conserved Areas Database and/or the California Conservation Easement Database (<https://calands.org/>). These Geographic Information System (GIS) databases inform state planning and policy, including the state's goal to conserve 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030 (also known as the State's 30x30 Initiative). Grantees can submit spatial data or request help via email to cpad@calands.org. Grantees can work closely with their grant administrator to discuss additional confidentiality measures to protect data and culturally sensitive information, particularly California Native American Tribal

- Grantees. Grantees must submit proof of reporting to the Conservancy before the end of the grant term.
- (m) If applicable, Grantee must provide at least one sign, denoting the grant funding source (“Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, Proposition 4 Grant Program”). The cost of the sign should be included in the approved project budget to be paid with grant funds. Grantee shall also include the grant funding source in all social media and press releases.
 - (n) Community Engagement and Co-Design. Applicants must demonstrate meaningful community engagement during project planning and implementation, including collaboration with community-based organizations, local governments, or Tribes representing the project area. Evidence of outreach activities, co-design meetings, or feedback mechanisms should be provided to show that benefits are responsive to local needs.
 - (o) Reporting of Benefits. Grantees shall identify and report the specific meaningful and direct benefits their project delivers to disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities. Reports should quantify outcomes where feasible (e.g., population served, acres restored, shade created, flood risk reduced, jobs created) and describe the process used to engage the affected community. All reporting must align with the *Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment (2024)* framework.

VI. Application and Review Process

Applications will be accepted continuously beginning on a future date to be determined after public comment period. The first step in the application process is for the applicant to complete the pre-application form. The Pre-Application Form is included in these guidelines as Exhibit 1. Pre-Application Forms must be emailed to communications@cvmc.ca.gov. Conservancy staff will review the Pre-Application Form and will contact the applicant to discuss the project. Applicants whose projects are deemed eligible will be notified to complete the full application and narrative (“Full Application”). The Full Application requirements are set forth below, under “VI. Contents of Full Application.” Applicants whose projects are appropriate for conservation corps participation should also use the [CORPS CONSULTATION PROCESS](https://ccc.ca.gov/collaborate/consultation/) (<https://ccc.ca.gov/collaborate/consultation/>). A confirmation letter or application must be submitted from the Urban Conservation Corps (UCC) or California Conservation Corps (CCC) confirming consultation and collaboration.

Submitted applications/proposals will be reviewed and evaluated for compliance with grant guidelines by staff, and, where appropriate, with Tribal consultation, biological consultation, and independent professionals with relevant expertise. CVMC will recommend or require Tribal consultation when appropriate. Staff will then recommend grant awards for consideration to the Conservancy Board. The board meetings are public in accordance with the Bagley Keene Act, and applicants may address the board regarding their applications.

Projects that meet evaluation criteria as described above will be eligible for funding, but the board retains discretion to reject any and all eligible projects. Implementation grant awards shall be made after compliance with CEQA has been achieved.

Contents of Full Application

The Full Application consists of an application and certification form and a required written narrative not to exceed 10 pages (exclusive of exhibits such as photos, charts, schedules, staff resumes and support letters), that addresses the following:

1. **Project Description.** Provide a detailed explanation of the project, along with accompanying exhibits (e.g., conceptual designs, charts, etc.).
2. **Project Location.** Include a map with enough detail to allow a person unfamiliar with the area to locate the project, along with photos as needed to depict the current condition of the site as applicable. If the applicant does not own the land, please document site control or describe a plan for obtaining it.
3. **Schedule.** List proposed estimated starting and completion dates, together with significant milestones. In the alternative, the applicant may list the time periods required for each stage.
4. **Budget and Cost Effectiveness.** Detail the costs of the entire project and sources of all funds, including those requested from the Conservancy. Describe any use of the California Conservation Corps, volunteers or similar resources.
5. **Organizational Capacity.** Describe the applicant's staff capacity and record of accomplishing similar projects. Highlight local projects and achievements. Attach resumes of lead staff persons or contractors.
6. **Benefits to Underserved Communities.** If applicable, explain how the project will serve disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities or areas otherwise documented to be underserved by outdoors access or recreational amenities. Projects that are located in or adjacent to, and/or benefit and serve, a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community as defined by [Vulnerable Communities Platform](#), [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#) or similar tool, should document that in their application.
7. **Environmental Review.** To the extent possible, describe the proposed environmental review for the project. If you have considered whether the project qualifies for exemption under CEQA or has already been subject to environmental review for a larger project, provide the relevant exemption or project information.
8. **Project Sustainability.** Describe how the future of the project can be sustained to maximize the fulfillment of Proposition 4 objectives, including ongoing maintenance and public access.

9. **Project Support.** Describe support anticipated from interested stakeholders, such as public agencies, nonprofit organizations, community groups, local businesses or landowners. To strengthen the application, provide letters of support from partnered agencies and community groups. If any significant opposition is expected, please describe that as well.
10. **Response to Project Evaluation Criteria.** Explain in detail how the project fulfills the project evaluation criteria set forth in the next section.

VII. Project Evaluation Criteria

Project applications must also include and address the following which will be the basis of evaluation:

- (a) **Objectives.** The extent to which the project fulfills one or more objectives of the grant guidelines.
- (b) **Technical effectiveness and innovation.** Use of methods and techniques based on best available science, innovative and interdisciplinary approaches, familiarity and experience with the Coachella Valley's ecological and social landscape, and demonstrated readiness to proceed with implementation.
- (c) **Cost Effectiveness.** Efficient use of funds and maximization of value.
- (d) **Leveraged financial support.** The ability of projects to leverage Conservancy funds by including funding or in-kind contributions from other public agencies or private funding sources.
- (e) **Collaboration.** Private/public partnerships or cooperative projects among governmental agencies will be preferred, including use of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps in appropriate projects. Letters of acknowledgement need to be provided for collaborative and partnered projects.
- (f) **Grantee capacity.** Applicants shall demonstrate relevant technical capability and a proven track record at implementing similar projects.
- (g) **Local economic benefits.** The extent to which a project benefits severely economically disadvantaged communities or disadvantaged communities (as those terms are defined in footnotes 1 and 2) or other areas traditionally underserved by outdoor access or recreational amenities.
- (h) **Public and community support.** Evidence of the level of community and local stakeholder support, including early and ongoing engagement with community-based organizations, Tribes, and residents. Applications should describe how the local community has participated in the project's conception, how their input shaped design, and how they will continue to be involved in implementation and long-term

stewardship. Applicants should include letters of support from community members, nonprofit organizations, Tribal governments, or other entities that demonstrate a broad-based support and collaboration for the proposed project.

- (i) **Consistency with Established Local Plans.** The extent to which a project contributes to the implementation of existing environmental, recreational, climate change and similar plans, such as the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, the Riverside County General Plan Open Space Element, the Northern Coachella Valley Trails Plan, the Desert Recreation District Master Plan, the California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implement Plan, the State of California 30x30 Initiative, Outdoor Access for All, etc.
- (j) **Meaningful and Direct Benefits.** The extent to which the project demonstrates measurable and lasting benefits to disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, or underserved communities, consistent with the *Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment (2024)*. Projects that clearly document these benefits will receive priority consideration.

VIII. Further Information

These Guidelines incorporate principles from the California Natural Resources Agency Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment (2024) to ensure accountability and equitable outcomes under Proposition 4.

Contact CVMC's project coordinator at (760) 776-5026 or communications@cvmc.ca.gov.

Exhibit 1 – Pre Application Form

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Grant Program



Pre-Application Consultation Information Form

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

42-600 Cook Street, Suite 219

Palm Desert, CA 92260

(760) 776-5026

www.cvmc.ca.gov

Further Information

All Grant Program documents, including Guidelines, are available for review at www.cvmc.ca.gov. If you have questions, please contact CVMC's Project Coordinator at (760) 776-5026 or communications@cvmc.ca.gov.

Revised 7/2025

Please complete this form and submit it via email at least 3 days before your Pre-Application Consultation at CVMC to communications@cvmc.ca.gov. We fully understand that your project information may be preliminary and subject to change. Our main purpose is to identify information that we will need to discuss the project meaningfully at the consultation.

1. Name of Applicant(s):
2. Representative and contact information:
3. Please attach a brief, one-page project description that summarizes key objectives, work tasks and deliverables.
4. Was the project part of any other project that has undergone environmental review under CEQA or NEPA? _____ If so, please identify the project and type of environmental document.
5. Please attach a map that depicts the location of the project.
6. Does the applicant own the project site? _____ If not, how will you achieve site control?
7. Estimated amount of Grant funding to be requested? \$_____.
Please complete Attachment A, Estimated Budget.
8. Does the project serve *disadvantaged communities* (i.e., with median household income of less than 80 percent of the statewide average)?
9. Have you consulted with the conservation corps about potentially assisting with your project (if appropriate)?
10. Do you have, or are you seeking, matching funding for the project? _____
Projects that provide at least 20% in matching funds are priorities for funding. If so, please reflect that in the estimated budget.
11. Please complete Attachment B, Estimated Schedule.

ATTACHMENT A
PROJECT BUDGET

Task No.	Task Budget Description	Amount
1.		\$
2.		\$
3.		\$
4.		\$
5.		\$
	TOTAL	\$

Leveraged (In-Kind) Match	Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL	\$

ATTACHMENT B
SCHEDULE

Task No.	Task	Activity	Start	End
Task No.	Task	Activity	Start	End

DRAFT

**RESOLUTION 2025-07 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

AUTHORIZING PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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, and to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the public's enjoyment thereof; and

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

WHEREAS, Proposition 4, the Climate Resilience Bond Act of 2024, provides funding to the Conservancy for climate resilience, habitat restoration, wildfire mitigation, and increased public access; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriated \$2.2 million to the Conservancy for implementation of the Proposition 4 Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, draft Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines were published for Public Comment and Tribal Consultation, and staff incorporated comments received.

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

1. Adopts the Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines (Exhibit A);
2. Further authorizes the Executive Director to make technical or non-substantive revisions to the Guidelines as may be required by the California Natural Resources Agency, or other reviewing entities, provided that such revisions do not materially alter the scope, purpose, or eligibility criteria of the program, and without the need for further Board approval.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board, held on this 17th day of November, 2025, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Deborah McGarrey, Chairperson
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

ATTACHMENT 8 – November 17, 2025

Informational Item 5.1 Presentation by Native American Land Conservancy

BACKGROUND

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the history, culture, and ongoing contributions of Native peoples. In honor of this month, the Conservancy welcomes and would like to introduce the Native American Land Conservancy (NALC), an Indigenous-led nonprofit dedicated to safeguarding sacred lands and promoting Native stewardship.

Established in 1998, NALC protects off-reservation sacred sites in California's ancestral territories and has since expanded its efforts nationwide. Their work includes the protection and restoration of culturally significant lands, environmental education for Native youth and the public, and scientific studies that highlight the historical and natural significance of sacred sites.

In recent years, the Conservancy awarded NALC three grants from the Climate Resilience and Community Access grant program, supporting their efforts to build organizational capacity and advance nature-based solutions in and around the Coachella Valley. These projects have strengthened NALC's ability to lead Native-led conservation, education, and stewardship initiatives across the region.

Reflecting the State's priorities to strengthen collaboration with Tribes, the Conservancy has taken deliberate actions to recognize and engage Tribal communities, including the adoption of Tribal Policy, incorporation of Tribal perspective in project planning, and prioritizing funding for Tribal-led conservation initiatives. These efforts align with the State's direction to support Tribal sovereignty, cultural preservation, and co-stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – Board action is not required.

ATTACHMENT 9 – November 17, 2025

Informational Item 5.2 CVMC Photo Contest – Protecting Public Lands

BACKGROUND

Since its establishment in 1991 through California Public Resource Code to protect natural and cultural resources in the Coachella Valley, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) has been dedicated to protecting the region's mountains, natural communities, and open spaces. Through its long-standing partnership with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and other regional partners, CVMC has supported the implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, contributing to the conservation and management of over 100,000 acres of public and private lands. These collaborative efforts have been instrumental in preserving the scenic, ecological, and recreational values of the Coachella Valley's landscapes for the benefit of current and future generations.

To highlight the importance of protecting public lands that are unique natural wonders of the Coachella Valley and part of the Colorado Desert, CVMC is launching its first-ever Photo Contest; designed to strengthen public engagement and expand awareness of the Conservancy's work by encouraging residents and visitors to explore, appreciate, and document the Valley's protected lands.

Through this initiative, the Conservancy aims to:

- Celebrate biodiversity and scenic beauty across the Coachella Valley — from the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains to the desert floor and its rare habitats.
- Inspire community stewardship by inviting individuals to share personal connections to the desert landscape and its conservation value.
- Highlight the importance of conservation, climate resilience, and habitat protection for current and future generations.
- Promote responsible recreation by encouraging participants to follow "Leave No Trace" principles and respect wildlife.

The valley features stunning desert landscapes, including numerous palm oases and sand dunes which for most people, these places will remain unseen. The photo contest will open a window to the beauty, knowledge, and impact to help people care more deeply, understand more clearly, and support more conservation action for the desert.

Staff will provide a short presentation on the Photo Contest, including its goals, participation process, and how this effort supports the Conservancy's broader outreach

and community engagement strategy. This is an informational item; board action is not required.

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

2025 Photo Contest Guidelines

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy is excited to invite you to take part in our first ever **Photo Contest!** The theme is **Protecting Public Lands**.

Whether you are capturing golden light over the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, a desert tortoise crossing through the desert, wildflowers blooming after the rain, or the vast quiet beauty of our open spaces — we want to see the Coachella Valley through your lens.

This is more than just a photo contest. It is a chance to:

- Celebrate the **biodiversity** and natural beauty of the Coachella Valley.
- Showcase your unique perspective of our **public lands and habitats**.
- Connect with a community passionate about conservation and stewardship.
- Help us tell the story of why protecting these lands matter — today and for generations to come.

The Coachella Valley is one of the most **biodiverse desert ecosystems in North America**, home to iconic species like the Peninsular bighorn sheep, desert pupfish, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, and rare desert wildflowers. By showcasing your photos, we are not just celebrating beauty — we are raising awareness of the importance of conservation, climate resilience, and the protection of public lands for all people. **Your photo can inspire others to see the desert with new eyes.**

How to Enter

1. Post your photo on Instagram between December 1 and December 31, 2025.
2. Use the hashtag **#CVMCphotocontest2025**.
3. Tag **@cvmountainsconservancy**.
4. Include a caption that shares the story behind the photo (location, moment, or conservation connection).
5. Be sure to review and follow the **Contest Rules** below.

Contest Rules

- **Eligibility:** Open to all ages. Participants under 18 must have parent/legal guardian permission.

- **Photo Dates:** Photos must be taken between **January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025.**
- **Photo Location:** Photos must be taken within the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy boundary (see map in Exhibit A, or visit mshcp-cvag.hub.arcgis.com for an interactive link on the Conservancy boundary and Natural Communities).
- **Photo Category:** Landscapes, wildlife, and native species of the Coachella Valley
- **Photo Standards:**
 - Photos must be your own, original work.
 - Minor edits allowed (exposure, cropping, dust removal).
 - Not allowed: composites, adding/removing elements, AI-generated images, watermarks, borders, overlays, or Instagram filters.
 - Must be family-friendly and consistent with conservation values.
 - To qualify for the grand prize, photos must be at least 6 megapixels (minimum 3072x2048 pixels).
- **Multiple Entries:** Up to 3 entries per person.
- **Respect for Nature:**
 - Do not touch, feed, bait, or closely approach wildlife.
 - No harassment of wildlife, picking vegetation, or damaging habitats.
 - Follow Leave No Trace principles and stay safe — do not put yourself or others at risk.
- By submitting, Participants confirm they are the sole copyright owner of the image and grant permission to the Conservancy and its partners to use the image for official purposes. This includes, but not limited to, websites, publications, educational materials, social media, exhibits, or promotional material use – without compensation.
- Participants agree to hold the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and its representatives harmless from all claims arising from their participation in the contest or use of submitted materials.
- **Copyright:** You retain all rights to your photo. By participating and submitting photo(s), you grant CVMC a non-exclusive license to use your photo(s) (with credit) in publications, social media, educational materials, exhibits, or promotional purposes — without additional compensation.

- **File Request:** Upon request, finalists/winners must provide the highest-resolution version of their image via email or Dropbox.

Judging Criteria

- **Top 5 photos** will be selected by the Conservancy team for eligibility and contest rule compliance:
 - Creativity and originality
 - Composition and technical quality
 - Storytelling and connection to conservation
 - Adherence to rules and ethical guidelines
- **Finalists:** The top five photos will be featured on the official Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Instagram account (@cvmountainsconservancy). Followers will help choose the final winner through community voting.
- The **Photo Contest Winner** will be determined by the number of “likes” their photo receives on the official Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Instagram page.
- In case of a tie, CVMC reserves the right to make the final decision.

Prizes

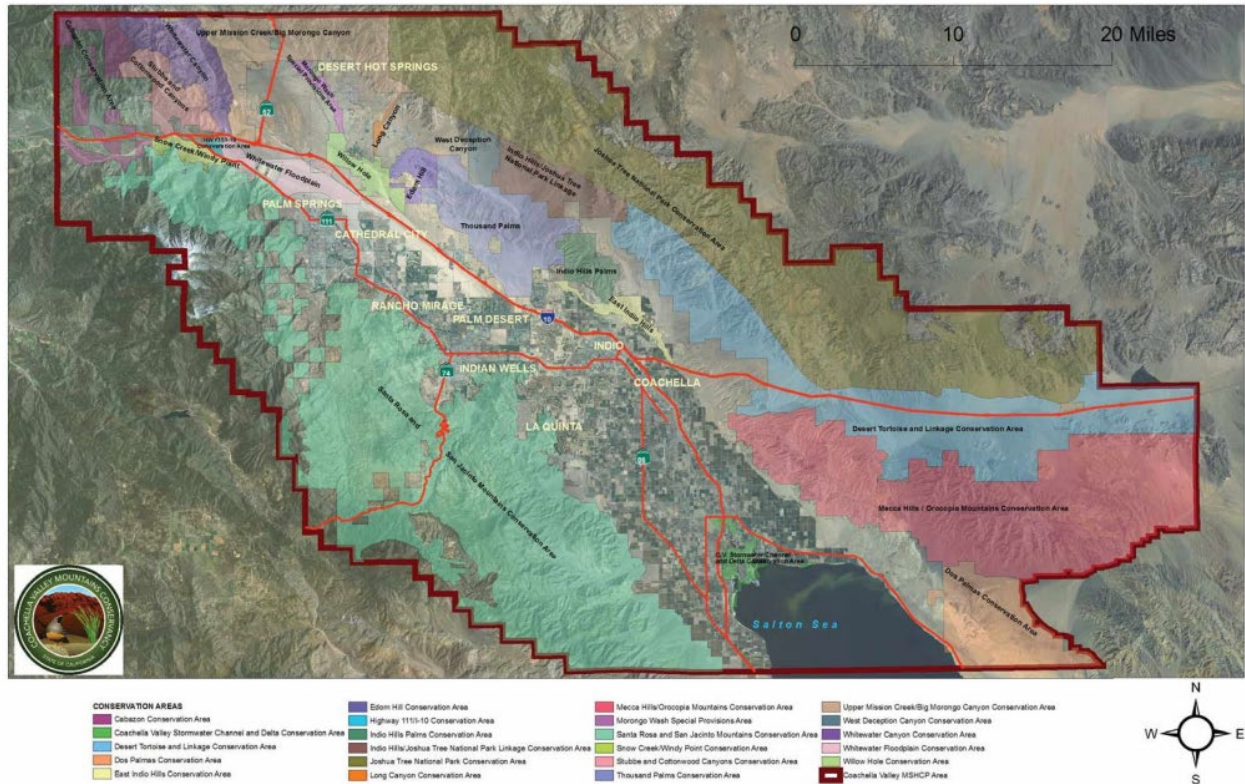
- **Grand Prize Winner:** Photo will be featured on **CVMC’s 2025 Year in Review**, the Conservancy’s annual publication highlighting the work, community partnerships, and state initiatives accomplished in the year. Additional prize to be determined.
- **2nd Place Winner:** Prize to be determined.
- **3rd Place Winner:** Prize to be determined.
- **Honorable Mentions:** Will be shared on CVMC’s Instagram and website with full photographer credit.

Key Dates

- **Contest Opens:** December 1, 2025 (12:00 AM PST)
- **Contest Closes:** December 31, 2025 (11:59 PM PST)
- **Finalists Announced:** mid-January 2026
- **Winner Announced:** February 6, 2026

Exhibit A

Conservancy Territory Map



Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Jurisdiction

ATTACHMENT 10 – November 17, 2025

Reports 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 (the Plan).

CVCC ACQUISITION MANAGER PROGRAM - The Conservancy continues to contract with CVCC as Acquisition Manager to implement the Plan. ***In 2025, 247.24 acres have been newly acquired for conservation in perpetuity in the following areas:***

Thousand Palms Conservation Area: In November 2024, the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/-13.0 acres. Escrow closed March 2025.

Indio Hills/Joshua Tree National Park Conservation Area: In February 2025 the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of one parcel consisting of +/-5.0 acres. Escrow closed May 2025.

Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conservation Area: In April the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/-60.0 acres. Escrow closed May 2025.

Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area: In February 2025 the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/-12.55 acres. Escrow closed May 2025.

Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area: In November 2024, the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of +/-5.03 acres; escrow closed March 2025. In January 2025, the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/-148.5 acres; escrow closed April 2025. Additionally, in June 2025, the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of one parcel consisting of +/-3.16 acres. Escrow closed August 2025.

Current active acquisition efforts include:

Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area: potential acquisition of one parcel consisting of +/-10.77 acres, pending CVCC Board Approval.

Mecca Hills Orocopia Mountains Conservation Area: potential acquisition of four parcels consisting of +/-160.75 acres, pending Appraisal and Site Inspection.

Thousand Palms Conservation Area: potential acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/-10 acres, pending Appraisal and Site Inspection.

Willow Hole Conservation Area: potential acquisition of three parcels consisting of +/-26.43 acres, pending Appraisal and Site Inspection.

Dos Palmas Conservation Area: potential acquisition of 3 parcels consisting of +/-100 acres, pending Appraisal and Site Inspection.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area: In November 2024 the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/-2.0 acres. Due to probate issues needing to be resolved with title, escrow is expected to close by end of January 2026.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area: potential acquisition of eight parcels consisting of +/-925.24 acres, pending negotiations with the City of Indian Wells.

Tax Default Properties:

In January 2025, staff received a letter from the County with notice that Tax Sales were being postponed due to potential legal risks and that the purchase price quotes were no longer valid. Furthermore, the County noted that information regarding new law for Tax Sales through Chapter 8 is still pending, and that details will not be available until early 2026. Until then, no properties will be sold through the Chapter 8 process. The parcels below are all on hold, pending details forthcoming in 2026.

Active Appraisals:

1. **Desert Tortoise Linkage Conservation Area:** In October 2024, an appraisal was completed on eleven parcels, consisting of +/-803.97 acres, representing separate ownerships. Three owners accepted CVCC's contingent offer for the purchase of +/-65.0 acres. Escrow is scheduled to close by end of May on the 5.0-acre parcel. The other two parcels consisting of 60.0-acres are scheduled to close by June 2025. The appraisals expire in December 2025.
2. **Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area:** In August 2024, 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, and escrow closed in March 2025. Staff continued negotiations with the other owners of the remaining 10.77-acres, the owners accepted CVCC's contingent offer and staff is taking the acquisition item to the CVCC Board for consideration and approval at their governing board meeting on November 13, 2025. Appraisal expires December 2025.

Additionally, in March 2025 an appraisal was completed on 12 parcels, consisting of +/-294.61 acres, representing separate ownerships. Contingent offer letters were sent out; one property owner accepted CVCC's contingent offer for the purchase of +/-3.16 acres, and escrow closed August 2025. Staff will continue to pursue discussions with other property owners about potential acquisitions. Appraisal expires June 2026.

3. **Whitewater Floodplain Conservation Area:** In June 2025 an appraisal was completed on eleven parcels, consisting of +/-633.52 acres, representing separate ownerships. Contingent offer letters were sent out. Staff will continue to pursue discussions with the other property owners for potential acquisitions.
4. **Mecca Hills Orocopia Mountains Conservation Area:** In May 2025 an appraisal was completed on three parcels, consisting of +/-140.65 acres, representing one owner. A contingent offer letter was sent out; the property owner accepted CVCC's contingent offer for the purchase of +/-140.65 acres, this is pending the Site Inspection.
5. **Dos Palmas Conservation Area:** In May 2025 an appraisal was completed on four parcels, consisting of +/-444.99 acres, representing one owner. A Contingent offer letter was sent out. At this time the owner was not interested in the offer.

6. **Thousand Palms:** In October 2025 an appraisal was issued on two parcels, consisting of +/-10 acres, representing two separate owners. The appraisal is underway, offers will be sent once it has been completed.

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 - The Wildlands Conservancy – *Whitewater Preserve Flood Control Improvement Project (Planning)*

The Wildlands Conservancy during Quarter 2 (April 1 through June 30, 2025) reporting period updated the project schedule to reflect the Prop 1 grant extension through December 31, 2025, with monthly milestones adopted to streamline tracking. Coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) advanced the Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) permit, with a draft permit anticipated in August 2025. Preparations were also initiated for a field inspection with CDFW, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to review the revised levee construction and mitigation plan. Continued refinement of the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) focused on the 1.6-acre wetland mitigation area identified for planting and monitoring. As of this update, the Conservancy has not received the Quarter 3 (July 1 through September 30, 2025) report from The Wildlands Conservancy. Based on Quarter 2 reporting, the field inspection with CDFW, USFWS, and USACE is expected to occur in November 2025. No additional project updates have been received at this time.

P010034 - \$182,264 - 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. Last season, UCC coordinated with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians ranger and cultural monitors who assisted with the restoration work. The UCC will commence with planning meetings and pre-field activities that include purchasing supplies and tools, recon/trail prep for access to remote camp location and work site. In the fall, UCC will be prioritizing work on the treatment of the northern boundary of the project area with most difficult terrains consisting of 14-acres.

P010036 - \$525,000 - City of Indio – *Flood Prevention Project at Jackson St. and Ave 50 (Infrastructure)*

The City of Indio has completed Phase 1 construction, and the design for Phase 2 is finalized. During Quarter 3 (July through September 2025), the City focused on securing rights-of-way and coordinating with Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to install new

underground electrical and telecommunication facilities along Avenue 50. IID's final design requires additional private easements, extending the right-of-way acquisition schedule to December 2025. As a result, subsequent construction milestones are expected to shift accordingly. Phase 2, which includes installation of storm drainage system funded by CVMC grant, will commence following the completion of right-of-way, with overall project completion anticipated by December 2026.

P010040 - \$847,285 - Desert Recreation District – *Water Efficiency Project at Thermal Park (Infrastructure)*

The Desert Recreation District's Water Efficiency Project will construct water-efficient infrastructure prior to groundbreaking of the entire park. During Quarter 3 (July through September 2025), DRD continued construction of the Thermal Park Water-Efficient Infrastructure Project, focusing on components funded by the CVMC Proposition 1 grant. Activities under the CVMC-funded scope included continued progress on water-efficient infrastructure, such as waterline installation and preparation for the main sewer line and catch basin work. Coordination with the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) advanced for the approval of domestic water and sewer connections, and the project remains in compliance with all permit and design requirements. Other Park construction activities not funded by the CVMC grant are also progressing steadily, including general site improvements, lighting, and recreational features. The project remains on schedule for completion in May 2026, and construction costs to date are within budget. Work anticipated for the next reporting period includes the completion of the on-site domestic waterline installation, installation of the main sewer line and catch basins, and installation of the hydrant assembly.

P010041 - \$847,285 – City of Coachella – *Rancho Las Flores Park Stormwater Project (Infrastructure)*

The City of Coachella's Rancho Las Flores Park Stormwater Project is a multifunctional water retention basin and a central component of a 14-acre expansion of Rancho Las Flores Park. The project will address a critical stormwater management challenge, mitigate recurring flooding issues, and restore ecological balance. During Quarter 3 (July through September 2025), the City focused on pending applications to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) programs, which are tied to the larger park expansion. Grant award notifications are expected in Fall 2025, after which the project schedule will be updated. While this has resulted in a slight start-date delay, it will not affect the CVMC grant deadline of June 30, 2027.

P010042 - \$847,285 – Southern California Mountains Foundation – *Palm Canyon Restoration Project (Infrastructure)*

Southern California Mountains Foundation grant was approved in May 2025 and agreement executed on June 5th. During this reporting period no work other than planning meetings was completed due to the regulatory limitations of when they can work on the project. The anticipated work consists of additional coordination and other pre-field season activities that will take place, including supplies and tools, and recon/trail prep as necessary for access to the remote camp location and work site.

PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS

34 PROJECTS COMPLETED TO DATE

\$5,106,260 TOTAL AMOUNT OF COMPLETED PROJECTS TO DATE

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

P010003 – \$111,407 – Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – *Mesquite Restoration and Groundwater Monitoring (Restoration)*

P010004 – \$150,000 – Desert Recreation District – *North Shore Park Flood Improvements (Infrastructure)*

P010005 – \$15,647 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Palm Canyon and Santa Rosa Watershed Restoration (Planning)*

P010005 – \$111,043 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration (Restoration)*

P010005 – \$90,515 – Friends of the Desert Mountains– *Santa Rosa Mountains Watershed Restoration (Restoration)*

P010006 – \$95,156 – Mission Springs Water District – *Willow Hole Groundwater Monitoring Wells (Restoration)*

P010008 – \$59,154 – City of Palm Springs – Phase 1 – *San Jacinto Mountains Watershed Restoration (Planning)*

P010008 – \$803,611 – City of Palm Springs – Phase 2 – *San Jacinto mountains Watershed Restoration (Restoration)*

P010009 – \$50,000 – City of Palm Springs – *Tahquitz Creek – Triangle Parcel Restoration (Restoration)*

P010010 – \$7,532 – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – *Phase 1 – Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration (Planning)*

P010010 – \$169,580 – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – *Phase 1 – Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration (Restoration)*

P010011 – \$7,178 – Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District – *Root Water (Infrastructure)*

P010012 – \$150,000 – California Department of Fish and Wildlife – *Dos Palmas Reserve Artesian Well Project (Restoration)*

P010014 – \$26,440 – The Wildlands Conservancy – *Phase 1 –Whitewater Preserve Flood Control (Planning)*

P010015 – \$135,884 – Center for Natural Lands Management – *Desert Pupfish Refuge Habitat Restoration (Restoration)*

P010016 – \$200,461 – City of Coachella – *City-Wide Stormwater Resource Plan Project (Planning)*

P010017 – \$215,911 – University of California/Riverside – *Salton Sea Crust and Water Quality Remediation (Planning)*

P010018 – \$16,330 – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – *Phase 2 – Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration (Restoration)*

P010018 – \$236,728 – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – *Phase 2 – Salton Sea Wetlands Restoration – Implementation (Restoration)*

P010019 – \$500,000 – Desert Recreation District – *Flood Control Project at Oasis Park (Restoration)*

P010020 – \$501,305 – Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – *Snow Creek Watershed Acquisition – Lamb Property (Acquisition)*

P010022 – \$71,841 – Southern California Mountains Foundation – *Dos Palmas Restoration Project (Restoration)*

P010023 – \$54,000 – Palm Springs Cemetery District – *Invasive Species Removal Project (Restoration)*

P010024 – \$132,318 – Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – *Wetlands Restoration, Tamarisk Control and Rail Habitat Enhancement at North Shore Ranch (Restoration)*

P010025 – \$101,556 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Desert Pupfish Refugia and Native Habitat Restoration (Infrastructure)*

P010026 – \$152,707 – Salton Sea Authority – *NSBYC Harbor Rehabilitation & Flood Infrastructure (Infrastructure)*

P010028 – \$96,832 – Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians – *Santa Rosa Horse Creek Dam and Wetlands Restoration Project (Restoration)*

P010029 – \$57,865 – Center for Natural Lands Management – *Core Marsh Burn and Restoration Project (Restoration)*

P010030 – \$72,136 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Dos Palmas Middle Salt Creek Project (Restoration)*

P010033 – \$54,100 – Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District – *Water Management System (Infrastructure)*

P010035 – \$235,000 – Coachella Valley Water District – *Groundwater Monitoring Well Project (Infrastructure)*

P010037 – \$203,498 – Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians – *Monitoring Wells Project Section 33 (Infrastructure)*

P010038 – \$160,000 – Coachella Valley Water District – *DHS and Mission Creek Subbasin Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project (Infrastructure)*

P010039 – \$60,515 – 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 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – *Environmental Review of its Coachella Valley Trail System Expansion Project (Planning)*

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

P680023 – \$150,000 – 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 visitors experience by improving the trailhead infrastructure and parking facility. The City of Indio continued advancing the Indio Hills Badlands Trailhead Parking Lot Improvement Project by completing key cultural compliance steps required by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the encroachment permit. The City's consultant, Dudek, finalized the records search and Sacred Lands search under the Section 106 review process, approved the subconsultant agreement for the tribal monitor, and began drafting the cultural resources report framework while awaiting final legal clearance from the Tribe. The ongoing legal review of the tribal monitor agreement remains the primary cause of delay, shifting the construction timeline by approximately one to two months. Once the one-day field survey is completed and the cultural resources report is submitted and approved by USBR, the city will secure the encroachment permit and proceed with construction, anticipated to take six to eight weeks.

P680024 – \$133,981 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Desert Hot Springs Pollinator Pathway Project (Infrastructure)*

The Desert Hot Springs Pollinator Project aims to create 10 to 20 pollinator gardens using native plants at various locations within the City of Desert Hot Springs on a total of less than five acres combined. During the Quarter 3 (July through September 2025), TLD's Conservation Department focused on greenhouse propagation and plant development, successfully shifting over milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*), 30 desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), 32 brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), 30 white sage (*Salvia apiana*), and nearly 90 desert spoon (*Bebbia juncea*) from 2" pots into 1-gallon containers to strengthen root systems. Trials showed most species thrived when transitioned outdoors with morning sunlight and afternoon shade. Additional propagation included creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and indigo bush (*Psoralea schottii*), while germination testing for globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) showed a 70% improvement with seed scarification. Penstemon (*Penstemon eatonii*) was also propagated successfully in the greenhouse. TLD continued coordination with the Desert Hot Springs Historical Society for community engagement opportunities and with the City of Desert Hot Springs and Mission Springs Water District, identifying two potential Water District sites for future gardens. Outreach with schools was limited during summer, but TLD is expanding partnerships with the Desert Recreation District, Desert ARC, and other local entities to secure garden host sites. As temperatures moderate, the team plans to expand propagation, strengthen partnerships, and begin designing and preparing garden spaces for planting this winter or spring.

P680025 – \$17,998 – 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. During Quarter 3 (July through September 2025), the project team focused on introducing the new Project Manager, reviewing existing project documentation, and coordinating next steps. No construction milestones were completed this quarter due to administrative transitions and personnel changes. A no-cost Amendment No. 3 has been requested to extend the grant term through December 31, 2026, allowing additional time for tribal and environmental coordination, procurement, and phased construction. The project schedule is being updated to reflect the new timeline, with construction and monitoring anticipated to begin in November 2026 and project closeout by December 2026.

PROPOSITION 68 GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS

19 PROJECTS COMPLETED TO DATE

\$2,304,891 TOTAL AMOUNT OF COMPLETED PROJECTS TO DATE

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

P680002 – \$28,947 – Friends of the Desert Mountains– *Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center Improvement (Planning)*

P680003 – \$49,000 – ShumwayRanch.Org – *Shumway Ranch Master Site Plan (Design)*

P680004 – \$74,500 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – *Shumway Ranch Restoration and Infrastructure (Planning)*

P680005 – \$81,730 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Design-Interpretive-Improvement Project – National Monument Visitor Center (Design)*

P680006 – \$232,182 – Kounkuey Design Initiative, Inc. – *Salton Sea State Recreation Area Renovation and Restoration (Planning)*

P680007 – \$139,550 – Center for Natural Lands Management – *Coachella Valley Preserve Fencing Project (Infrastructure)*

P680008 – \$25,917 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Coachella Valley Trails Facility and Signage Inventory and Assessment Project (Planning)*

P680009 – \$38,530 – Southern California Mountains Foundation – *Coachella Valley Conservation Corps Center Project (Planning)*

P680010 – \$57,500 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – *Shumway Initial Improvements and Preparations Design Plans Project (Design)*

P680011 – \$245,274 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Greening the Desert (Infrastructure)*

P680012 – \$100,000 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – *Trails and Interpretative Signage Project (Infrastructure)*

P680013 – \$565,475 – Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority – *Shumway Restroom and Pavilion Improvement Project (Infrastructure)*

P680014 – \$35,000 – ShumwayRanch.Org – *Preservation Plan for Historic Structure Improvements at Shumway Ranch (Planning)*

P680016 – \$53,856 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Signs of Nature: Connecting DHS to Nearby Nature (Infrastructure)*

P680017 – \$200,000 – The City of Coachella – *Environmental Review of its Grapefruit Boulevard Urban Greening and Connectivity Project (Planning)*

P680018 – \$88,479 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *East Valley Pollinator Pathway Demonstration Project (Infrastructure)*

P680019 – \$35,000 – Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District – *Feasibility Study for new Regional Park in the Coachella Valley (Planning)*

P680020 – \$152,057 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Conservation Greenhouse Project (Infrastructure)*

P680021 – \$163,850 – Oswit Land Trust – *Biological Resources Assessment and Environmental Review for the Prescott Preserve (Planning)*

P680022 – \$90,098 – 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)*

CRCA0003 – \$398,000 – 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: Vegetation habitat modeling: current tasks are creating graphics to display results of

dominant plant species under future climate scenarios and will be used to model potential changes in vegetation in different parts of the Coachella Valley in the future. Carbon stocks project data collection analysis: Staff have continued to work on estimated carbon sequestration measurements across the Coachella Valley. Community outreach workshops: UCR center for Conservation and Biology planned and hosted their partner workshop on May 14th, 2025. Several partner organizations from across the Coachella Valley attended the workshop. Milestones/Deliverables completed during the reporting period: Staff have completed their second partner workshop for this project, which has allowed stakeholder input for the project and has strengthened partner relationships for organizations across the Coachella Valley.

CRCA0004 – \$405,700 – 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/Community Liaison: helped staff with outreach boots at local community events. Helped staff with the Youth education classes/hikes. Wrote and managed grants for the environmental education programs. Designed the presentation for potential volunteers and potential investors. Assisted with creating content for social media pages. Assisted in updating the Native Planting Lecture. Attended bi-weekly meetings with KDI to continue the process for design and engineering from the Desert Lake Shore project. Attended monthly CA 30 x 30 meetings. Translation Specialist: created monthly calendar of events in English and Spanish. Coordinated 6 lectures for the Fall Native Planting Series. Continued the translation for the Coachella Valley Native Planting Guide. Assisted finance associate with processing donations and thank you letters, assisted volunteer coordinator with managing volunteer signups. Assisted with the Kiosk monthly update.

CRCA0006 – \$202,000 – 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 no cost to at least 180 underserved and economically disadvantaged youth annually. Status: This quarter the outdoor adventure team delivered a variety of youth and family programs in the underserved communities, including bird watching, bike riding, rock climbing, hiking, and on-site leave no trace programming without Desert Recreation District Clubhouses and Kids clubs at various centers. Desert Recreation Foundation partnered with Friends of the Desert Mountains, Wildlands Conservancy and Big Morongo Canyon

Preserve to bring enriching and fun outdoor adventures to valley youth, serving a total of 167 youth this quarter. The fall programming was planned along with conducting community outreach to advertise summer activities and the various campsites. To date the project has successfully created safe and fun outdoor recreation opportunities to nearby outdoor spaces. The team placed an emphasis on stewardship and recreational responsibility, reminding participants that these places are for all to enjoy.

CRCA0007 – \$280,000 – 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 (COFEM) 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: In April, COFEM's Conservation Team led a series of impactful events aimed at connecting the community with nature and promoting environmental stewardship. On April 7, in collaboration with the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and CCC (California Conservation Corps), they hosted a Spring Clean-up and Bike Ride at Chuckwalla National Monument, where volunteers, including former Nuestro Desierto students, removed old tires found along 15 miles of the Box Canyon Road within the Chuckwalla National Monument. In May, the Conservation Program Lead participated in a 30x30 Inland Desert Working Group retreat at Bears Water, joining a hike at Coyote Hole Preserve and contributing to discussions on future land restoration initiatives. Throughout June, the Conservation Team focused on planning and logistics for the upcoming Nuestro Desierto program, a free initiative for young adults aged 18-24 from underserved communities to explore desert ecosystems and conservation careers. COFEM and partnering organizations collaborated with local agencies, other non-profits, and community groups to organize a stewardship day event as part of the Nuestro Desierto program. Outreach was conducted to recruit a new cohort for year four of the Nature Ninos program with The Wildlands Conservancy

CRCA0009 – \$215,000 – 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. It promotes joint effort among adjacent conservation owners for monitoring, maintenance enforcement, recreation, and public education. Status: The position funded by this grant has been filled by a new Capital Projects Manager, who is currently becoming acquainted with the projects housed under CVDMRCA, including the West Deception Canyon Trail and the Shumway Restoration efforts. The Capital Projects Manager will work closely with

CVMC, Friends of the Desert Mountains, and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission to advance trails projects approved by the Conservancy Board. The position continues to be funded 50% by this CRCA grant and 50% by DRD.

CRCA0010 – \$52,950 – 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: KDI has hired a civil engineer to finish the final designs for the project. A soil test was conducted by the Sherwood Engineers to assist in engineering for the final design. Neighbors were contacted to research the quality of water onsite and to weigh the potential for different types of restrooms that can be added to the project. A site visit was conducted to look at the possibility of removing or reusing the concrete walls that have been damaged near the oasis. Friends' education staff has hosted its first Cordage Workshop at the Torres Martinez Library, where Torres Martinez students learned how to process Yucca leaves into fibers that can be used for tools and clothing. Final design will continue until the end of the year, possibly early next year.

CRCA0011 – \$292,000 – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens – *Native American Conservation Workforce Development Program (Capacity/Training)*

The project provides paid training in conservation for up to 40 Native American participants, ages 18–34, from disadvantaged communities, integrating Western scientific skills with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). During Quarter 3 (July – September 2025), The Living Desert onboarded the first three interns, each engaging in distinct conservation projects. Renee focused on desert tortoise husbandry and native plant propagation, learning to support habitat restoration. Isaiah worked on plant care at the Conservation Greenhouse and Desert Plant Conservation Center, preparing for native plant out planting in upcoming gardens. Belle explored youth environmental education, reviewing prior program materials and preparing focus groups to develop a Soboba Tribe Youth Environmental Ambassadors program. Milestones during this period included completion of intern onboarding, familiarization with departmental operations, preparatory materials sharing, and initial training in animal husbandry, plant care, and social science data collection. Work anticipated for the next quarter includes onboarding three additional interns, expansion of hands-on field activities for tortoise care and plant propagation, establishment of a native plant garden, and launching the Soboba Youth Environmental Ambassadors program.

CRCA0015 – \$300,000 – 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: Milestones: The City Council Approved the park design and name, Dave Erwin Park on April 24, 2025. The Project was transferred to Capital Projects department following the approval of the park design. Interest has provided and updated design and construction schedule for the project. Scheduling concerns, challenges, issues encountered, and or performance of work that may delay completion of the project: Staff are working with the Planning Department and Design team to review the impacts of the current drainage easement located at the east end of the park parcel. Staff are working to request the abandonment of this easement from adjacent parcel owners. Impacts to schedule and budget are unknown at this time. Work anticipation for the next reporting period: completion of additional CEQA studies required to update the environmental documents.

CRCA0016 – \$41,087 – Friends of the Desert Mountains – *Native Plant Education Program (Capacity/Education and 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:-In this reporting period, the project has completed 5 lectures. The Community members appreciate the course and can follow along with the information. The feedback received via the surveys was good. The Native Planting guide has been given out at all the lectures and through outreach efforts.

CRCA0017 – \$245,372 – 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 continued the 2025 Monitoring and Management reports on CVMC grant funded FODM land. Data Management: organized parcel and ownership data. Coded parcels look up tool for property committees and volunteers. Acquisitions: reached out and followed up about potential land acquisitions from private parties. Initiated purchase of RLF property. Working with Stewart Title to acquire donations. GIS Deployment: shapefile management of FODM owned parcels and data validation. Trash disposal: Facilitated dumping cleanup with Burrtec on multiple parcels. Easement agreement: Coordinating with Alpine water and Riverside County about establishing new easement agreement. Operational support: helped with various tasks both in office and in field settings. Monitor and document Rosa fire recovery effort on grant funded parcels. Site visits for DRD four trails project. Upgraded the Land Monitoring program through implementation of Point platform. Continuing Real Estate course work.

CRCA0018 – \$200,000 – 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: In this reporting period, progress was made on the donation of a 16-acre property in DHS and OLT. The donor initiated the dissolution of the LLC tied to the property, a necessary step before transferring ownership to OLT. Once finalized, the donation will bring the property under permanent protection, adding to the growing network of conserved lands in the Coachella Valley. Preliminary steps were also taken to prepare for post-donation management, including planning for property monitoring and the installation of conservation signage. A total of 791 volunteer hours were logged in this quarter.

CRCA0019 – \$273,877 – UC Riverside/Center for Conservation Biology – Palm Desert – *WUI Assessment (Capacity/Research)*

The project evaluates the impact of human activities, particularly off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, on conservation lands in the Coachella Valley Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and develops resources for land managers to prevent landscape disturbances. During Quarter 3 (July – September 2025), staff completed mapping of WUI areas and field surveys of fenced and unfenced OHV-impacted plots, with analyses of passive recovery and intervention effectiveness ongoing. Community engagement included interviews with OHV users and land managers, dissemination of surveys (including a Spanish-language version), and outreach to local organizations. Updates to the project Story Map and web tool incorporated new mapping, vegetation, and intervention data. Work anticipated for the next quarter includes finalizing data analyses, completing remaining interviews, and finalizing the web tool, Story Map, and other deliverables.

CRCA0020 – \$372,712 – 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: During the second quarter of 2025 the Conservation Ranger Program advanced in formalizing legal structures, evaluating agency alignment, and refining training pathways. Key activities included finalizing the Common Interest Agreement, presenting the program to the Desert Recreation District Board, advancing partnerships with enforcement and land management stakeholders, and finalizing the Ranger Cadet Training curriculum in collaboration with the Urban Conservation Corps (UCC).

CLIMATE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM – COMPLETED PROJECTS

3 PROJECTS COMPLETED TO DATE

\$574,175 TOTAL AMOUNT OF COMPLETED PROJECTS TO DATE

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

CRCA0001 – \$310,000 - *Kounkuey Design Initiative – Juntos al Aire Libre*

CRCA0002 – \$407,277 – *Southern California Mountains Foundation – UCC Coachella Valley Center (Capacity)*

CRCA0005 – \$390,000 – *Native American Land Conservancy – NALC Capacity Building (Capacity)*

CRCA0008 – \$128,000 – *City of Desert Springs – Trails Conservation Outreach and Education Program (Design/Outreach & Education)*

CRCA0012 – \$296,000 – *Southern California Mountains Foundation – UCC Coachella Valley Center (Capacity/Training)*

CRCA0013 – \$136,175 – *Native American Land Conservancy – Nature Based Solutions Projects (Capacity)*

CRCA0014 – \$200,000 – *Desert Compost – Composting for Climate Resiliency (Capacity)*

Item C. CVMC FUND STATUS

After the board consideration and awards from the action items above, the Conservancy's available grant funding balances are as follows:

Proposition 1	\$1,596,868
Proposition 68	\$2,992,274
Proposition 84	\$6,296,369
CRCA FY22/23	\$ 0
Total Remaining Grant Funds	\$ 10,885,511