

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

Regular Meeting – February 9, 2026, 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

NOTICE AND AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order and 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 November 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes – The Board will review and vote to approve meeting minutes from November 17, 2025. (See Attachment 1.)
Action Item 4.2	Approve the Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines and Grant Application materials, authorize the submission of all necessary documents to the Office of Administrative Law pursuant to the Emergency Regulations Process, and authorize the Executive Director to make any minor, non-substantive revisions requested by OAL. (See Attachment 2.)

5.0 Informational Items

Informational Item 5.1	<p>Presentation by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) – CVCC will provide an update on the Ranger Program and ordinance for conserved lands.</p> <p>(See Attachment 3.)</p>
Informational Item 5.2	<p>CVMC Photo Contest - Protecting Public Lands. Staff will present photo contest winners and prizes.</p> <p>(See Attachment 4.)</p>
Informational Item 5.3	<p>Community Engagement Update.</p> <p>(See Attachment 5.)</p>

6.0 Reports

- 6.1 Written Reports from Staff – Staff will provide updates on Conservancy on-going projects. (See Attachment 6.)
- 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 May 11, 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 – February 9, 2026

Action Item 4.1 Approval of November 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (CVMC) REGULAR MEETING

73-510 Fred Waring Drive
Administrative Conference Room
Palm Desert, California 92260

DRAFT MINUTES

November 17, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

Teleconference locations:

State of California, Resources Agency
715 P St.
2nd floor (Conference Room 02-310)
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Enrique Arroyo, California State Parks
Stephen Benson, Department of Finance (Remote)
Denise Delgado, City of Coachella
Steve Downs, City of Rancho Mirage
Madeline Drake, CA Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
(Remote)
Gary Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs
Grace Garner, City of Palm Springs
Beatriz Gonzalez, State Assembly Appointee
Benjamin Guitron, City of Indio
Richard Kim, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
(Remote)
Deborah McGarrey, City of La Quinta (*Chair*)
Jennifer Norris, Wildlife Conservation Board (Remote)
Brian Penna, City of Indian Wells

Savanna Saubel, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Cooper, Riverside County
Rita Lamb, City of Cathedral City (*Vice Chair*)

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Leonard Allen, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens
Danelle Baronia, UC Riverside
Shane Bogner, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens
Dr. James Danoff Burg, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens
Tammy Martin, Friends of the Desert Mountains
Elizabeth Paige, Native American Lands Conservancy
Ray Schneider, Oswit Land Trust
Lynn Sweet, UC Riverside

1.0 Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Deborah McGarrey declared a quorum with 15 voting members present and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Subsequently, three additional Board Member (Taylor; Delgado; Guitron) arrived after the roll call bringing the attendance to 18 voting members.

2.0 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

No public comments.

3.0 Closed Session

No closed session was scheduled for this meeting.

4.0 Action/Informational Items- Public Hearing

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

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Gardner/Penna) to approve the May 12, 2025, minutes; the motion passed with four abstentions (Drake; Garner; Kim; Norris).

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

Chair McGarrey gave a brief overview of the proposed schedule and meeting location. The proposed schedule dates proposed were February 9, 2026; May 11, 2026; August 10, 2026, and November 16, 2026. The proposed location was Palm Desert Council Chamber, 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

There were no questions or discussions from the board.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Gardner/Penna) to approve the proposed 2026 meeting schedule and location. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There were no questions or discussions from the board.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Downs/Taylor) to elect Deborah McGarrey as CMVC Chair, to elect Rita Lamb as CVMC Vice Chair, and to elect Deborah McGarrey as the new representative on the CVDMRCA governing board. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 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.

Chair McGarrey introduced Diana Rosas, CVMC Associate Director, who summarized Item 4.4 as presented in the staff report. Ray Schneider with Oswit Land Trust (OLT) was also in attendance and available for questions.

Board Member Chris Tracy with UC Riverside (UCR) asked if Dillon Road is the only access point to the property. Schneider from OLT noted that Dillon Road is one of the main access points but there are additional access points throughout the property. Board Members Evan Trubee and Brian Penna asked what will protect the easement from any encroachment. Schneider commented that before the property was acquired there were preexisting boulder barriers, however on the Dillon roadside there are still multiple points of entry that people are accessing by getting around the gate. Placing the boulders on the Dillon side would reinforce the area to prevent the encroachment. Board Member Penna asked if there was a gate on Dillon Road. Schneider responded that there are preexisting

gates and fences that remain locked, and that OLT is also working with Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to coordinate any issues that may arise.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Taylor/Penna) adopting 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 Prevention 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. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

Associate Director Rosas summarized Item 4.5 as presented in the staff report. Dr. James Danoff Burg with the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens (TLD), was also in attendance and available for questions.

Dr. James Danoff Burg from TLD thanked the board for considering their proposal. Danoff Burg added that TLD's goal is to create a single pollinator pathway that would span the entire valley. The project not only benefits the native species and pollinators but also migratory species such as birds, butterflies, and dragonflies that move through the Coachella Valley. He noted the deep partnerships that TLD has fostered through collaborations so far in the East Valley cities and in Desert Hot Springs. TLD will continue the same process in the central valley areas.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Penna/Gardner) adopting 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. The motion passed unanimously.

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).

Board Member Savanna Saubel, representative of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, recused herself and left the room for the agenda item per Bagley Keene rules. Chair McGarrey opened the item. Executive Director Elizabeth King summarized item 4.6 as presented in the staff report.

Board Member Joan Taylor asked about the baseline assessment reference to the former property owner before it was conserved. Associate Director Rosas commented that according to title when the property was acquired Schlesinger was the owner at the time. Chair McGarrey and Board Members Taylor and Penna disclosed that they serve as unpaid Board Members on the Friends of the Desert Mountains Board and that per the Attorney General no conflict exists therefore recusal is not required.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Garner/Taylor) adopting 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). The motion passed with one abstention (Saubel).

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

Associate Director Rosas presented item 4.7 as presented in the staff report.

There were no questions or discussions from the board.

Vote: A motion was made and seconded (Trubee/Gardner) adopting Resolution 2025-07 consenting to and approving the Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Item 5.1 Presentation by Native American Land Conservancy

Chair McGarrey introduced Elizabeth Paige, Education and Stewardship Program Manager for the Native American Land Conservancy (NALC). Program Manager Paige gave a brief informational presentation on NALC and general updates.

Board Member Gary Gardner commented that Willow Hole is a very special place. He noted the efforts to keep the important habitat protected and clean, as it is often subject to illegal dumping. He also inquired if it was possible for schools to take field trips to the area. Paige responded that NALC has done small field trips to the area but would need to confirm with the various Willow Hole landowners and local tribes for a deeper discussion on the sensitive habitats before encouraging large field trips to the area.

Informational Item 5.2 CVMC Photo Contest- Protecting Public Lands

Project Coordinator Ochoa gave a brief overview of the Photo Contest and its guidelines.

Board Member Grace Garner asked if the photo contest submissions will also be accepted on Facebook. Project Coordinator Ochoa responded that submissions will also be accepted on Facebook. Board Member Penna asked how many followers there are on Instagram. Executive Director King responded that there are roughly 300 followers on Instagram. Board Member Benjamin Guitron also commented that if CVMC pushes out the photo contest flyers to all the Cities and local agencies they would be happy to publish them on their social media platforms. Chair McGarrey thanked Board Members Evan Trubee and Chris Tracey for their tour prize donations. Board Member Tracey added that UCR is offering a private tour of Deep Canyon which is not typically open to the public.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Written reports from staff.

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

There were no questions or discussions from the board.

6.2 Executive Director Report.

Executive Director King reported on the following:

- CVMC Budget Update- Executive Director King shared the Operational Budget Overview.

- CVMC Staff Community Outreach- Executive Director King shared some images of the Summer and Fall Outreach events that staff attended.

There were no questions or discussions from the board.

6.3 Board Member Comments and Reports.

Tammy Martin, Executive Director of Friends of the Desert Mountains, commented that due to weather conditions, the Buford Crites dedication was postponed and that she would notify Conservancy staff when a new date is set.

7.0 Adjourn to the February 9, 2026, meeting.

Chair McGarrey adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:10 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 2 – February 9, 2026

Action Item 4.2 Approve the Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines and Grant Application materials, authorize the submission of all necessary documents to the Office of Administrative Law pursuant to the Emergency Regulations Process, and authorize the Executive Director to make any minor, non-substantive revisions requested by OAL.

BACKGROUND

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 Proposition 4 primary objective is to tackle California's 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 and a minimum of 40 percent of available funds to disadvantaged communities.

The Conservancy has received \$11 million under Chapter 6, *Protect Biodiversity and Accelerating Nature-Based Climate Solutions*, of the bond to support local assistance projects in the Coachella Valley. The funds are allocated as follows:

- \$82,500 – Bond Fund Fee
- \$770,000 – Program Delivery
- \$10,147,500 - Projects

To expedite the implementation of Proposition 4 bond programs, budget trailer legislation—Chapter 106, Statutes of 2025 (AB 149, Committee on Budget)—authorizes administering departments to utilize the emergency regulation process for the development and adoption of program guidelines and selection criteria. This authority permits departments to proceed more expeditiously than would be possible under the standard rulemaking process prescribed by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

DISCUSSION

The Conservancy has prepared its Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines (Guidelines), along with the associated Pre-Application and Full Application materials, for submission to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) pursuant to the emergency regulation process. In accordance with OAL requirements, the Conservancy is required to provide a minimum

of five working days' notice of the proposed emergency action prior to submitting the emergency regulation package.

As part of the emergency regulation package, the Conservancy will submit the following materials to OAL:

1. Proposed Emergency Regulation Text and State of California Standard (STD) Form 400; and
2. Finding of Emergency, STD Form 399, mailing list, Statement of Reasons, and the complete rulemaking record, as approved by the Board.

Following submission of the emergency regulation package, OAL provides interested parties with a five-calendar-day period to submit comments on the proposed emergency regulations.

Upon receipt, OAL has ten calendar days to review the emergency rulemaking file and render a determination. If OAL approves the emergency rulemaking, the approved regulation will be filed with the Secretary of State. If OAL disapproves of the regulation, OAL is required to issue a written decision specifying the reasons for disapproval.

For additional information, you may direct inquiries to Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Executive Director Elizabeth King at eking@cvmc.ca.gov.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board approve the Conservancy's Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines and Grant Application materials for submission to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) pursuant to the emergency regulations process. It is further recommended that the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to make any minor, non-substantive revisions requested by OAL. Should OAL request substantive changes, staff will return to the Coachella Valley Conservancy Governing Board for further review and approval of the revised 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 92211
(760) 776-5026
www.cvmc.ca.gov

Last Updated 1/22/2026

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 (10%) of available funds to projects benefiting severely disadvantaged communities and a minimum of 40 percent (40%) of available funds to projects benefiting disadvantaged communities.

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 2026, 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 extensive outreach to encourage applications from economically disadvantaged communities. The Conservancy reserves the right to suspend, modify, or close the application process at any time based on funding availability, program priorities, or Board direction.

III. **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include public agencies, local agencies, nonprofit organizations qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, special districts, joint powers authorities, public utilities, local publicly owned utilities, mutual water companies, and Tribes.

IV. Use of Proposition 4 Funds

Funding Priorities. Projects that advance the Conservancy objectives outlined below are eligible for funding under 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. Involve willing sellers at or below appraised fair market value and include a recorded deed restriction ensuring land use consistent with the Conservancy's mission.
- ii. Preserve natural and cultural areas essential to endangered or threatened species or to overall ecosystem health.
- iii. Supports land conservation by preventing greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering existing emissions.
- iv. Advance California's 30x30 initiative (Governor's Exec. Order No. N-82.20 (Oct. 7, 2020)) by conserving private lands, expanding or creating protected areas, and safeguarding vital ecosystems.
- v. 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 by replacing them with native plants.

- ii. Restore watershed features such as washes, channels, streams or riverbeds.
- iii. Improve groundwater recharge through washes, alluvia fans, or streams.
- iv. Improve ecosystem through restoration work that supports diverse plants and animals, healthy soils, dust control, and clean water.
- v. Reduce wildfire risk by removing invasive species, lowering fuel loads, and promoting fire-resistant native vegetation.

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

- I. Improving outdoor recreation access, including but not limited to visitor facilities, landscaping, shade structures, and trails for hiking, biking walking, or horseback riding.
- II. Enhancing community access including disabled access, educational features, and interpretive displays on habitat, culture, or history.
- III. Restoring natural areas and habitats to expand and improve public access to outdoor recreation.

3. Objective 3: Co-Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities.

Projects that benefit Disadvantaged or Severely Disadvantaged Communities, as identified by Vulnerable Communities Platform¹, CalEnviroScreen 4.0² or a similar tool approved by CVMC, will receive priority consideration. 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

¹ 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.

² A tool that shows cumulative impact in California communities by census tract, face disproportionate health disparities due to poor air quality, exposure to harmful pollution, and lack of public amenities and services.

2) and other areas traditionally underserved by outdoor access or recreational amenities.

I. (S)DAC and Vulnerable Population Definitions

a. **Disadvantaged community (DAC):** A community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income.

b. **Severely disadvantaged community (SDAC):** A community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income.

c. **Vulnerable population:** A subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts. (Note: tribes are considered vulnerable populations)

i. **Tribe:** A federally recognized Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission

V. Project Requirements

- (a) All projects must demonstrate readiness and the capacity to complete the proposed project. This includes, but is not limited to, having all required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation completed prior to the Board meeting for funding approval.
- (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.
- (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 are encouraged. Projects that include a meaningful match—cash or in-kind—will receive priority. Cost share is the portion of project costs not funded by the Conservancy, contributed by the applicant or partners, and must directly support the project during the grant term. Eligible forms include staff or volunteer time, materials, equipment, land value, or other direct project expenses. Endowments, or unrelated expenses are not eligible. Applicants must list the source, type, and amount of all contributions in the budget, noting whether each is secured or proposed. Documentation of secured contributions may be required before the grant agreement is executed.
- (j) Overhead or indirect costs are capped at 12% of the total grant and cover general, non-project-specific expenses. Grantees must provide documentation to substantiate these costs. Ineligible expenses include food and beverages, fundraising, lobbying, entertainment, and costs already charged as direct project expenses. Ten percent of the grant will be withheld until all deliverables, including required signage, are completed and approved. The Conservancy may request additional documentation or disallow inadequately supported overhead costs.
- (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) Grantee shall submit a plan to the Executive Officer describing how the Conservancy's support will be acknowledged, including proposed signage. At a minimum, the plan shall include press releases, social media posts during the project implementation, acknowledgment of Conservancy funding in communication with the media, volunteers, and the public, and a description of the project on the Grantee's website that credits the Conservancy.
- (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.
- (p) Grantees must maintain insurance coverage consistent with the Conservancy's Grant Agreement requirements, including Workers' Compensation, Commercial General Liability, and Automobile Liability insurance.
- (q) Where applicable, projects must comply with state and federal accessibility requirements, including website accessibility standards.

VI. Application and Review Process

When Grant funding is available, the Conservancy shall solicit **Letters of Intent (LOIs)** through a Notice of Funding Availability posted on its website. The Letter of Intent serves as an initial eligibility screening tool consistent with Section 25040.4 of the Conservancy's Proposition 4 Grant Program regulations.

The Letter of Intent shall be submitted using the Pre-Application Consultation Form included as Exhibit 1 and emailed to communication@cvmc.ca.gov. At a minimum, the Letter of Intent must include:

1. Name of applicant and contact information
2. Applicant eligibility
3. Project type
4. Project summary
5. Project location and anticipated public access, if applicable
6. Program objectives that the project will meet
7. Amount of funding request
8. Project schedule
9. Matching funds, 20% match is recommended
10. Meaningful and direct benefits to a vulnerable population, Disadvantaged Community, or Severely Disadvantaged Community

Letters of Intent will undergo an administrative review for applicant and project eligibility. Only applicants whose Letters of Intent are deemed eligible will be invited to submit a Full Application.

Applications will be continuously accepted beginning on a future date to be determined after public comment period. Pre-Application Forms must be emailed to communication@cvmc.ca.gov

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/>). 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 and consistent with state law, including the Conservancy’s Tribal Consultation Policy. 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. Additional Information

A. Ineligible Projects

Funds must be spent consistent with the funding source. Examples of ineligible projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Projects cannot be used to fund acquisitions of land by eminent domain.
2. Projects that include acquisition of property for more than fair market value.
3. Projects that include both acquisition and development.
4. Projects that are intended to correct problems caused by inadequate routine maintenance.
5. Projects that would be used to fulfill mitigation requirements imposed by law.

6. Projects cannot establish or increase any endowment.

B. Signage Requirements and Funding Acknowledgement

If awarded a grant prior to beginning the project, the grantee shall submit a plan to the Executive Officer to acknowledge the Conservancy's support. This plan must include press releases, social media postings during the agreement term, acknowledging Conservancy funding when speaking with the media, volunteers and the public about this Project and include a description of the Project on the Grantee's website acknowledging funding from the Conservancy.

In addition, the grantee shall submit a signage plan describing the number, design, placement and wording of the signs, or the specifications of a proposed, alternative method. The cost of the signs is an eligible cost. Temporary and permanent signage are required conditions under this agreement.

C. Proof of Insurance

Must provide certificate of insurance during the grant period for Workers Compensation, General Liability (\$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury / \$2,000,000 general aggregate limit) and Automobile Liability (\$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage) including required endorsements.

D. Grant Provisions

Following Conservancy Board approval of a grant, staff will prepare a grant agreement with detailed conditions specific to the project. The grant agreement will be the binding legal agreement between the Conservancy and its grantee. The grant agreement must be signed by the grantee before funds are disbursed. Several typical grant agreement provisions are:

1. Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the State.
2. Grantees must submit a detailed project work program and budget for Conservancy approval.
3. Grant funds will be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis.
4. Site control from applicant or the landowner is needed prior to commencing work.
5. Grantees may be required to reimburse the Conservancy for some or all of the disbursed grant funds if the project is not successfully completed.
6. Grantees must maintain liability insurance during grant term and include the San Joaquin River Conservancy as an "additional insured."
7. Expenses incurred before the Conservancy grant agreement is executed are not reimbursable.
8. The project complies with all applicable current laws and regulations affecting development projects, including but not limited to, legal requirements for construction and implementation, building codes, health and safety codes, state contractor's and other licenses, and disabled access laws.
9. Grantee must certify that all applicable permits have been obtained.
10. Grantees must comply with signage requirements acknowledging funding source.

11. Grantees must sign the grant agreement and exhibits, as needed, and comply with general terms and conditions in order to receive funds.

E. Advanced payments may be considered by the Conservancy and determined on a case-by-case basis, under these conditions:

1. Any organization requesting advance payments must provide written justification and statement of need

2. Advance payments are limited to 25% of grant award

F. Grant expenses

1. Labor Costs

a. Project Implementation – The grantee's employee labor implementing a project will be reimbursed at rates equal to compensation actually provided to the employee (salary plus benefits, including fringe benefits). The cost of a grantee's labor/staff time to implement specific project tasks (for example, prepare a management plan, determine trail alignments) should be included in and billed to specific tasks in the budget.

b. Project Management – the scope of work may include a task called "Project Management". This task should cover labor costs, not otherwise billed, that are associated with administering a specific Conservancy grant (for example, managing contracts, paying consultants, billing, maintaining accounting records, and other time spent on managing the project).

2. Other Direct Costs

No markups on direct expenditures, these should be billed at cost.

G. Indirect Costs or Overhead

Overhead or indirect costs refer to the non-project-specific expenses involved in running a business. Examples of these costs include rent, computers, telephones, office supplies, internet access, copy machines, and electricity. However, certain types of indirect costs cannot be charged to the Conservancy, including food and beverages, fundraising expenses, lobbying, and entertainment costs. Additionally, any cost billed as a direct expense cannot be included in overhead calculations. Both "overhead" and "indirect costs" are acceptable terms that refer to the same category of expenses.

If a grantee wishes to recover overhead costs from a Conservancy grant, these costs should be listed as a line item in the approved project budget. Grantees that intend to charge overhead to a Conservancy grant must be able to document the validity of these charges. One common approach for documentation is to create a Cost Allocation Plan for their organization. While other methods may be acceptable, it is ultimately the

grantee's responsibility to ensure compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) guidelines.

The Conservancy limits overhead recovery to a maximum of 12% of a the grant amount.

H. Payment Process

Funds cannot be disbursed until there is a fully executed grant agreement between the Conservancy and grantee and satisfactory site control is provided, including a Memorandum of Understanding for operations and maintenance (if applicable); CEQA/NEPA (if applicable) is completed; and signage is installed. As stated above, project payments are made on a reimbursement basis (i.e., the grantee pays for services, products or supplies; submits invoices and proof of payment; and is then reimbursed by the Conservancy). Each Request for Disbursement (RFD) submitted will require a progress report with supporting documentation. It generally takes 4-6 weeks to process payment once a complete RFD is submitted to the Conservancy. The last ten percent of the grant amount will be withheld until all deliverables and signs are installed and will be issued as a final payment upon project completion.

I. Use of Project Property

The grantee must maintain and operate the property acquired, restored or developed in a manner consistent with the grant agreement and grant guidelines. Land acquisition, conservation, and trail easement proposals must include a plan describing the proposed restrictions and reservations for the easement and the funding mechanism available to support the plan. The final conservation easement terms and conditions are subject to approval by the Conservancy.

Grantees must own the land or hold a lease, long-term agreement, or other legal, long-term interest in the land that is satisfactory to the Conservancy.

J. Project Monitoring and Reporting

The Full Application must include a monitoring and reporting component that explains how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. In addition, Conservancy staff will work with grantees to develop appropriate monitoring and reporting templates and procedures. The monitoring and reporting components will vary depending on the nature of the project.

K. State Audit and Accounting

Audit Requirements

If the project is selected for audit, the grantee will be contacted in advance. The audit shall include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the grantee, as they relate to the project for which the funds were granted.

The grantee must have the project records, including the source documents and canceled checks, readily available and provide an employee with knowledge of the project to assist the auditor. The grantee must provide a copy of any document, paper, record, or the like, requested by the auditor.

Accounting requirements

The grantee must maintain an accounting system that:

- accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards,
- provides a good audit trail, including original source documents such as purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, timecards, canceled checks, etc.
- provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined.

Records Retention

Project records must be retained for a period of twenty (20) years after final payment is made by the Conservancy or ten (10) years following an audit, whichever is longer. A project is considered complete upon receipt of final grant payment from the Conservancy.

Ongoing Project Reporting

Grantees are required to submit reports on the progress of the project as requested by the Conservancy through the term of the grant agreement. Entities will be provided with a final report of tasks completed and final accounting, including matching and in-kind contributions with the final invoice.

For questions or technical assistance, contact CVMC's project coordinator at (760) 776-5026 or communication@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 92211
(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 communication@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 communication@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	Finish

COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TITLE:

PROPOSITION 4 GRANT PROGRAM.

DIVISION 11: COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

**CHAPTER 2: COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT
PROGRAM**

FINAL TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 25051. Applicability and Scope.

This chapter shall be known as the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Proposition 4 Grant Program. These regulations apply to Grants funded by the Conservancy from Proposition 4, otherwise known as SB 867 (Allen 2024), The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135 and 93020, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 3501, and 93020 Public Resources Code.

§ 25051.1. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply wherever the terms are used throughout this Chapter.

(a) "Conservancy" means the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy established pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33501.

(b) "Disadvantaged Community" means a community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.

(c) "Environmental Justice" means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, income, and national origin with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies consistent with Public

Resources Code Section 71110 and Government Code section 65040.12.

- (d) "Grant" means an award of funds made by the Conservancy, in the form of advance payment or reimbursement to the Grantee for actual expenditures incurred in performing an eligible project described in section 25051.
- (e) "Grant Agreement" means an arrangement between the State and Grantee specifying the payment of funds by the State for the performance of specific objectives by the Grantee within a specific project performance period by the grantee.
- (f) "Grantee" means an applicant that has a Grant Agreement.
- (g) "Joint Powers Authority" means any entity formed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, if at least one of the parties to the joint powers agreement qualifies as an eligible applicant consistent with section 25051.2.
- (h) "Nonprofit Organization" means any nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.
- (i) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.
- (j) "Severely Disadvantaged Community" means a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.
- (k) "Tribe" means a federally recognized Native American Tribe or a non-federally recognized Native American Tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.
- (l) "Vulnerable Population" means a subgroup of a population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts consistent with Public Resources Code section 90100.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135, and 93020, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 33501 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

Subchapter 2. Eligibility and Eligible Costs

§ 25051.2. Applicant Eligibility.

Eligible Applicants are public agencies, local agencies, Nonprofit Organizations, special districts, Joint Powers Authorities, Tribes, public utilities, local publicly owned utilities, and mutual water companies.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135and 93020, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 33501 and 93020, Public Resources Code.

§ 25051.3. Project Eligibility.

The following projects are eligible for a Grant:

A) Acquisition Projects that:

1. Must be from willing sellers at a price no greater than fair market value, and the property must carry a perpetual deed restriction in favor of the Conservancy to ensure use consistent with its conservation mission.
2. 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.
3. Support land conservation, where conserved land reduces greenhouse gas emissions by both preventing emissions and sequestering existing gases.
4. Support the California 30x30 initiative (Governor's Exec. Order No. N-82.20 (Oct. 7, 2020)) in acquiring private lands and returning them to conservation or expanding existing conservation areas or create new ones and protect vital ecosystems.

5. 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

B) Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Projects that :

1. 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.
2. Enhance watershed related natural features, such as washes, channels, streams or riverbeds.
3. Improve groundwater supply by enhancing flow into the aquifer through washes, alluvia fans, or streams.
4. Improve the ecosystem through restoration work that supports a wide range of plants and animals' life, including healthy soils, dust suppression, and clean water.
5. Prevent wildfires through the removal of invasive plants species to enhance fire prevention by reducing fuel loads, preventing fire spread, and allowing native fire-resistance vegetations to thrive.

C) Increase Public Access. Eligible projects include:

1. Enhancing access to outdoor recreation, including but not limited to:
 - i. Visitor-serving improvements (including buildings, visitor center facilities, native plants 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.

2. Community access project improvements, such as disabled access improvements, interpretative features that provide education about habitat conservation, cultural artifacts or local history.
3. Restoration projects that support natural features and habitat areas that expand public access and enhance access to outdoors recreation.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135 and 93020, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 33501 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

Subchapter 3. Application

§ 25051.4. Letters of Intent and Request for Proposals.

(a) The Conservancy shall solicit letters of intent on its website from interested applicants when Grant Funding is available. In its request for letters of intent, the Conservancy shall identify priority project types for the funding opportunity as provided in section 25051.3, any program priorities listed in section 25051.6(b)(2), or fiscal limitations applicable to the available funding. Letters of intent shall be short-form documents intended to allow technical staff to ascertain whether the applicant and/or project are eligible for program funding prior to submitting a more detailed application and proposal. Letters of intent shall be submitted as a Microsoft Word document to communication@cvmc.ca.gov and the narrative following the Pre-App Consultation document. At a minimum, all letters of intent shall include the following information:

- (1) Name of applicant and preferred email or mail address or other preferred contact information.
- (2) Applicant's eligibility pursuant to section 25051.2.
- (3) Project type.

- (4) Project summary.
- (5) Project location and description of anticipated public access if the project includes acquisition or restoration of real property.
- (6) An explanation of the project's eligibility under section 25051.3.
- (7) Amount sought by the Grant
- (8) Project duration
- (9) Does the project have matching funds? (Yes/No — if yes, specify source and amount)
- (10) Does the applicant or project serve or provide meaningful and direct benefits to a Vulnerable Population, a Disadvantaged Community, or a Severely Disadvantaged Community?

(b) Letters of intent will undergo an administrative review to determine whether applicant and project eligible requirements in section 25051.2 and 25051.3 respectively are met. Applicants or projects determined ineligible will be disqualified. Applicants or projects determined eligible will be invited to submit full applications and proposals.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135, and 93020, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135, and 93020 Public Resources Code.

Subchapter 4. Application Submittal, Proposal Review, and Grant Awards

§ 25051.5. Applications and Proposals.

(a) Each applicant deemed eligible pursuant to section 25051.4(b) shall be invited to submit a full application. The written full application must be submitted as Microsoft Word document to communication@cvmc.ca.gov. Full applications shall, at a minimum, include the following information:

- (1) Name of applicant and preferred email or mail address or other preferred contact information.
- (2) Project description and amount sought

(3) Introduction summarizing applicants' interest, goals, and project, and rationale for the project goals and approach

(4) A scope of work and narrative description illustrating how the project would advance one or more of the goals and objectives identified in section 1 of Proposition 4.

(5) Approach and methods

(6) Anticipated outcomes and deliverables

(7) Anticipated community engagement and benefits, including workforce education and training, contractor, or job opportunities for Vulnerable Populations.

(8) Proposed letters of support

(9) Proposed project timeline

(10) Proposed budget, including need for advance funding and description of external sources of funding (not required for project selection)

- A. Labor costs for Grantee employees directly implementing a project shall be reimbursed at rates equal to the actual compensation provided, including salary and benefits (such as fringe benefits). Costs for staff time dedicated to specific project tasks. For example, preparing a management plan or determining trail alignments must be included in the budget under the corresponding tasks.
- B. If the scope of work includes a task titled "Project Management," this task shall cover labor costs not otherwise billed under project implementation. Examples include administering the Conservancy Grant, managing contracts, paying consultants, billing, maintaining accounting records, and other activities related to overall project administration.
- C. All other direct costs shall be billed at actual cost, with no markups.
- D. The Grantee shall include the cost of one sign acknowledging the Grant funding source (Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy,

Proposition 4 Grant Program.) as well as associated costs for social media outreach and press releases.

- E. Overhead or indirect costs refer to non-project-specific expenses incurred in the general operation of a Grantee organization. Examples of such costs include rent, computers, telephones, office supplies, internet access, copy machines, and electricity.
- F. Certain expenses are not allowed as overhead under Conservancy Grants, including food and beverages, fundraising activities, lobbying, and entertainment. Additionally, any costs billed as direct expenses may not be included in overhead calculations. The terms “overhead” and “indirect costs” are considered interchangeable and refer to the same category of expenses.
- G. Grantees intending to charge overhead to a Conservancy Grant must provide documentation to substantiate these charges. Overhead recovery is limited to a maximum of 12% of the total Grant amount. The final 10% of the Grant will be withheld until all deliverables, including signage installation, are complete. This withheld amount will be released as a final payment upon satisfactory project completion.

(11) Project team experience and qualifications of the lead staff, as demonstrated through submitted resumes. Where determined feasible by the applicant, this shall include the use of services by the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 14507.5.

(12) Identification of relevant permit compliance requirements and a plan to obtain applicable permits.

(13) Website accessibility compliance where relevant

(b) The Grantee shall submit a plan to the Executive Officer describing how the Conservancy's support will be acknowledged, including proposed signage. At a minimum, the plan shall include press releases, social media posts during the project

implementation, acknowledgment of Conservancy funding in communication with the media, volunteers, and the public, and a description of the project on the Grantee's website that credits the Conservancy.

- (c) The Grantee shall maintain, for the duration of the Grant period, and provide to the Conservancy, certificates of insurance evidencing coverage for Workers' Compensation, Commercial General Liability (with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate), and Automobile Liability (with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage), together with all required endorsements.
- (d) Funds must be expended in accordance with the requirements of the funding source. Examples of ineligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Projects involving the acquisition of land through eminent domain.
 - (2) Projects that include the acquisition of property at a price exceeding fair market value.
 - (3) Projects that combine both property acquisition and development activities.
 - (4) Projects intended to address deficiencies resulting from inadequate routine maintenance.
 - (5) Projects undertaken to satisfy mitigation requirements imposed by law.
 - (6) Projects that establish or increase an endowment.
 - (7) Projects to complete environmental mitigation requirements for other projects.
- (e) Grants shall be awarded as funding is available and authorized.
- (f) Allocation of funds is contingent on the enactment of the state budget. The Conservancy does not disburse funds until the budget has passed and is signed by the Governor.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135, and 93020 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 33501 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

§ 25051.6. Evaluation of Proposals.

(a) All proposals shall be reviewed by a review committee of state-staff experts on climate change impacts on communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and public access, or other relevant qualifications based on the nature of the funding available and the Conservancy's priorities.

- (1) If state staff with relevant expertise are unavailable, the Conservancy may invite non-state staff experts to participate in the review committee.
- (2) All review committee members are subject to applicable laws on conflict of interest.

(b) Each Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- (1) Alignment with and response to the program declarations listed in Section 1 of Proposition 4, including advancing funding to Vulnerable Populations, Disadvantaged Communities, or Severely Disadvantaged Communities, and advancement of Environmental Justice principles.
- (2) Alignment with program priorities which shall include the following:
 - (A) Reduce risks of climate change impact upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources.
 - (B) Increase Public Access.
- (3) Demonstration of public benefits anticipated to be derived from the project, including direct and meaningful community benefits, workforce development and training, or the inclusion of community partnerships, where applicable, including tribal-led projects or partnerships.
- (4) Demonstration of readiness and capacity to complete the proposed project. This includes, but is not limited to, having all required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation completed prior to the Board meeting for funding

approval.

(5) Inclusion of services by the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 14507.5, where determined feasible by the applicant.

(6) Inclusion of innovative and/or effective methodology supported by science.

(7) Relative need of the project, based on geographic or environmental vulnerability factors, as described in the request for proposals pursuant Section 25051.4.

(c) Proposals that are consistent with established local plans and contribute to the implementation of existing environmental, recreational, climate change, or related initiatives.

(d) Proposals for acquisitions or conservation easements shall submit required spatial data to the California Conserved Areas Database and/or the California Conservation Easement Database, administered through the California Protected Areas Database (<https://calands.org/>).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135, and 93020 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 33501 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

§ 25051.7 Grant Awards.

(a) The review committee will consider which proposed Grant projects will best meet the criteria in section 25051.6(b) and make award recommendations to the Conservancy for the full or partial amount requested, or denied, based on the extent to which proposed projects best satisfy the goals of Proposition 4. Each applicant that submits a full application pursuant to section 25051.5 shall be notified of the review committee's recommendation prior to the Conservancy meeting for final decision. A notice of intent to award a grant for the full or partial amount requested will be based on the following factors:

(1) Amount of available funding.

(2) Number of Applicants.

(3) Amount of funding requested by Applicants; and

(4) The Council's funding priorities.

(b) The review committee will submit its recommendations for funding to the Conservancy. The Conservancy shall review the review committee recommendations and will approve, modify, or deny these recommendations based on the information provided and the record before it. Upon a final vote, the Conservancy shall notify successful applicants of a Grant Award, including the amount of a Grant.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135, and 93020 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 33501 and 93020 Public Resources Code.

§ 25051.8. Grant Agreements.

(a) The terms and conditions of a Grant shall be set forth in a Grant Agreement entered into by the Conservancy staff and the Grantee. A Grantee has the sole responsibility for the fiscal management of Grant funds, project-specific recordkeeping and reporting, performance of the Project, and all other aspects of compliance with this Chapter and the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Grant amount and any need for advance payment.

(2) Grantee contact information.

(3) Grant duration.

(4) Scope of the Project funded by the Grant award.

(5) Budget.

(6) The Grantee's agreement to comply with existing laws.

(7) Other project-specific terms may be necessary to protect the state in administering its fiduciary obligations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135, and 93020 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 33501, 33601, 33602, 90135, and 93020 Public Resources Code.

ATTACHMENT 3 – February 9, 2026

Informational Item 5.1 Presentation by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) – CVCC will provide an update on the Ranger Program and ordinance for conserved lands.

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

This item is provided for information purposes only, and no Board action is requested.

ATTACHMENT 4 – February 9, 2026

Informational Item 5.2 CVMC Photo Contest – Protecting Public Lands. Staff will present photo contest winners and prizes.

This item provides an update on the results of the Conservancy's first-ever photo contest, *Protecting Public Lands*. The contest was launched to encourage public engagement and to showcase the Coachella Valley's desert landscapes, wildlife, and recreational opportunities.

Promotion of the contest occurred through the Conservancy's social media channels and partner outreach. A total of 48 submissions were received and reviewed by staff for eligibility and adherence to contest guidelines.

Judging was conducted in accordance with the approved criteria. Board members and staff selected the top five finalists, and community voting determined the first-, second-, and third-place winners.

This item is provided for informational purposes only, and no Board action is requested.

ATTACHMENT 5 – February 9, 2026

Informational Item 5.3 Community Engagement Update.

BACKGROUND

Throughout 2025, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) has strengthened its visibility and impact both in-person community engagement and a growing digital presence. Staff and leadership have represented the Conservancy at regional and statewide events including the 30x30 Partnership Summit, the Healthy Desert, Healthy You Conference, and the Joshua Tree National Park Association's Desert Discovery Day, ensuring CVMC remains an active participant in conversations around conservation, climate resilience, and public access. These efforts have reinforced partnerships, expanded outreach, and helped connect residents and youth to the Conservancy's mission and the landscapes we protect.

Online, CVMC's communication platforms continue to experience steady, organic growth, with a 390% increase in engagement compared to the year 2024. Through vibrant storytelling, wildlife features, and project highlights, the Conservancy has cultivated a stronger connection with the community. Posts featuring native species, wildlife camera footage, and completed grant projects have resonated most with audiences, reaching more than 66,000 views across Instagram and over 5,000 views on Facebook without paid promotion. These metrics reflect the power of consistent, authentic communication in advancing public awareness of conservation across the Coachella Valley.

As part of CVMC's community engagement efforts, staff hosted a public photo contest inviting community members to share images highlighting the Coachella Valley's natural landscapes, wildlife, and connections to place. The contest was well received and generated 48 submissions, reflecting strong public interest and enthusiasm for celebrating the region's environmental and cultural resources. The volume and quality of entries demonstrated the effectiveness of creative, participatory outreach in engaging the community and fostering a sense of shared stewardship.

In addition to digital outreach, CVMC continues to celebrate and uplift its partners' achievements and recognize community milestones. Recent communications have highlighted successful grant completions including Desert Compost and the Native American Land Conservancy as well as local collaborations with the Desert Recreation District and youth engagement programs like COFEM's Nuestro Desierto Program. The Conservancy has also shared Board updates and public notices, such as the Draft Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines public comment and tribal consultation period, underscoring transparency and collaboration at every level. CVMC has invested millions

of dollars in grant funds across our communities over the last 20 years, with \$16M in investments in the past five years. Transitioning from a behind-the-scenes approach to increasing visibility of our investments helps ensure our work is able to continue for years to come.

Looking ahead, CVMC will continue to showcase conservation in action from fieldwork and education programs to community partnerships emphasizing storytelling that connects people to place. By maintaining an authentic and accessible presence both online and in the community, the Conservancy is strengthening public understanding of its mission and fostering stewardship of the Coachella Valley's natural and cultural resources. Staff welcome any input from the Conservancy Board on future community engagement.

This item is provided for informational purposes only, and no Board action is requested.

ATTACHMENT 6 – February 9, 2026

Reports 6.1 Written Reports from Staff – ongoing Conservancy projects update.

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, 347.24 acres were newly acquired for conservation in perpetuity.***

2026 efforts:

Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area In November 2025, the CVCC Board approved the acquisition of one parcel consisting of +/-10.77 acres. Escrow is tentatively scheduled to close at the end of January 2026.

Mecca Hills Orocopia Mountains Conservation Area: potential acquisition of four parcels consisting of +/-140.65 acres, pending CVCC board approval and cleanup.

Thousand Palms Conservation Area: potential acquisition of two parcels consisting of +/-10 acres, pending CVCC board approval.

Willow Hole Conservation Area: potential acquisition of three parcels consisting of +/-26.43 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 February 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. **Upper Mission Creek Conservation Area** 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.
2. **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. Appraisal expires July 2026.
3. **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 CVCC board approval and clean up. Appraisal expires June 2026.
4. **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. Appraisal expires June 2026.

5. **Thousand Palms:** In October 2025 an appraisal was issued on two parcels, consisting of +/-10 acres, representing two separate owners. Contingent offer letters were sent out; the property owner's accepted CVCC's contingent offer for the purchase of +/-10 acres, this is pending CVCC's board approval. Appraisal expires December 2026.

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 3 (July 1 through September 30, 2025) reporting period continued to advance permitting for the Whitewater Preserve Levee Replacement Project. Coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife progressed the Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) permit, including review of a draft permit and identification of a requirement to establish 3.64 acres of in-kind ephemeral wash habitat as mitigation. The Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan was refined to correct the willow riparian mitigation acreage to 1.6 acres for planting and monitoring. Project timelines remain dependent on agency coordination, with field inspections and permit finalization anticipated in early 2026. A final CVMC grant extension through March 31, 2026 is anticipated to allow completion of permitting and preparation for the 2026 construction season.

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. During Quarter 3 (July 1 through September 30, 2025), the UCC focused on preparations for the upcoming spike season, including coordination meetings with the U.S. Forest Service and project partners, procurement of gear and supplies, and training of corpsmembers. One reconnaissance trip was conducted to evaluate previously treated areas for potential re-treatment needs; however, no active tamarisk treatment occurred during the reporting period due to extreme heat and environmental regulatory constraints requiring work to occur in the fall. Field treatment activities, including reconnaissance and trail preparation to access the remote spike camp and work sites, are scheduled to begin in October 2025, with the first spike planned for the week of October 6, 2025.

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)*

The 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 Quarter 4 (October through December 2024), The Living Desert initiated early project planning and plant selection for the Desert Hot Springs Pollinator Pathway Project. The Conservation Department developed a prioritized list of native pollinator plant species using regional best-practice resources and began limited propagation of fall- and winter-tolerant species, including Penstemon eatonii, Penstemon centranthifolius, and Peritoma arborea. Coordination was initiated with Mission Springs Water District to plan a potential garden near Mission Springs Park and with community partners, including the Desert Hot Springs Garden Club, to explore garden enhancements at the Senior Center. Outreach to schools and other local partners also began, with community response to the project reported as positive. No schedule or budget concerns were identified during the reporting period.

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. During Quarter 3 (July through September 2025), UC Riverside advanced multiple core components of the Desert Climate Resilience Initiative. Vegetation habitat modeling analyses and graphics depicting future climate-driven shifts in plant species were finalized and uploaded to the project's ArcGIS web tool, alongside completed carbon land cover and belowground carbon stock maps. Fieldwork progressed with the initiation of water extractions for shrub stem samples, with stable isotope analysis results anticipated by December 2025. Community engagement continued through public lectures, workshops, and surveys, including the release of a Spanish-translated climate resilience survey to improve representation from Eastern Coachella Valley communities. No schedule or

budget concerns were reported, and work is ongoing to finalize and publicly launch the project's web tool and website.

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 booths 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. During Quarter 3 (July through September 2025), COFEM advanced its Defensores de Tierras Públicas program through outreach, training, and the launch of the 2025 Nuestro Desierto California Naturalist cohort. Informational sessions were held both in person and online to recruit participants, resulting in enrollment of a diverse cohort of 21 students from across the Coachella Valley. COFEM staff and partner Blue Dot Education completed California Naturalist Instructor Training and began course instruction, including classroom sessions and field trips to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument, Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and other regional sites. Community engagement activities also included participation in Latino Conservation Week at Whitewater Preserve. A previously planned camping trip was rescheduled to February due to federal shutdown-related constraints, and a no-cost grant extension through December 2026 is anticipated.

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 Torress 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. The project has completed a 60 percent construction design set and is coordinating with KDI and Riverside County to address CEQA requirements in preparation for future construction funding requests, with final design expected to continue through the end of the year or early 2026.

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 Q4 2025, The Living Desert advanced its Native American Conservation Workforce Development Program by supporting three interns engaged in hands-on conservation, restoration, and youth education projects. Renee developed skills in vegetation surveys and desert tortoise conservation while contributing to large-scale restoration efforts, including planting 400 mesquite trees along the Amargosa River and assisting with plant propagation and animal husbandry. Isaiah focused on native plant propagation, nursery maintenance, seed banking, compost production, and preliminary design work for a native plant garden at the Torres Martinez Senior Center. Belle led development of a Soboba Tribe Youth Environmental Ambassadors program, supporting youth workshops, cultural programming, recruitment efforts, and coordination with tribal staff. Collectively, interns gained practical experience integrating Western conservation practices with Traditional Ecological Knowledge, with all milestones met and no schedule or budget concerns reported.

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 Q3 2025, the Cooperative Ranger Initiative advanced in program development, partner coordination, and workforce planning. CVCC staff created interpretive materials, including an Esri Experience CVMSHCP Web Application for ranger training and public education, and installed a Burrowing Owl interpretive sign at Two Bunch Palms Elementary School. Coordination with the City of Desert Hot Springs and supporting agencies focused on addressing illegal dumping and encampments through a CalRecycle-funded cleanup, with Standard Operating Procedures developed to guide ranger enforcement, outreach, and contractor activities safely and lawfully. Host agency evaluations were completed for Desert Recreation District and Riverside County Parks, with County Parks identified as the most promising partner for contracting full-time ranger services, while a hybrid model with CVDMRCA/DRD will support a Ranger Cadet Internship Program to build a local conservation workforce. Additional activities included an ordinance crosswalk to identify regulatory gaps and continued development of training materials, with next steps including a property land tour, Web Application refinement, and PC832 law enforcement training scheduled for November 2025.

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	\$ 1,603,652
Proposition 68	\$ 2,992,546
Proposition 84	\$ 5,545,453
Proposition 4	\$11,000,000*
Total Remaining Grant Funds	\$ 21,141,651

* Pending OAL Approval.