

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 15, 2024

PREPARED BY: Shawn Muir, Community Services Manager

REQUEST: REAFFIRM APPROVAL OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT WITH THE COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR LANDS WITHIN THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Reaffirm approval of the Conservation Easement with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) for lands within the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Program (CVMSHCP).
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Conservation Easement document.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On August 23, 2012, staff presented a request for approval of a Conservation Easement for approximately 116-acres in south Palm Desert. The recommendation was to direct staff to prepare and execute the Conservation Easement due to the loss of the Redevelopment Agency and the desire to protect properties in the hillsides that were acquired for preservation/open space. The City Council voted 3-2 to approve the Conservation Easement; however, the document was not finalized and signed.

Staff was made aware of the need to coordinate with the CVCC and other organizations to finalize and execute the Conservation Easement in August 2022, as no documentation of the recorded easement could be located. Staff worked with CVCC who also coordinated with the various wildlife organizations involved to prepare the Conservation Easement. This easement document has been approved by the Wildlife Agencies as the template for future conservation easements developed under the CVMSHCP.

Legal Review:

Both the City Attorney and CVCC Legal Counsel have been involved in the development of the Conservation Easement. They have each reviewed and approved the final Conservation Easement document for final execution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this action; however, the City will accurately have the approximately 116-acres covered by the Conservation Easement counted toward the required CVMSHCP contribution.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2012 Approved Staff Report
2. Conservation Easement