

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 12, 2023

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

REQUEST: RATIFY A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS' RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE ACCESS INDIAN CANYON DRIVE PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify a letter of support for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments' (CVAG) Reconnecting Communities Program funding request for the ACCESS Indian Canyon Drive Project.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program. Funds for the Fiscal Year 2023 RCN Program will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that advance community-centered connection transportation projects, with a priority for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, by improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, health care, food, nature and recreation; fostering equitable development and restoration; and reconnecting communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development. The deadline to submit funding applications was September 28, 2023.

The City Council previously ratified a letter of support for a funding request from the California Transportation Commission's Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program for the same project. Specifically, the proposed project is to make improvements that increase the resiliency of Indian Canyon Drive that help to decrease road closures due to flood and sandstorm events.

Due to the time sensitivity of this matter, the Legislative Review Committee (Mayor Kelly and Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla) authorized issuance of the letter and the City Council is requested to ratify the attached letter.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with issuance of the proposed letter.

ATTACHMENT:

Letter of Support
