

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 28, 2023

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

REQUEST: RATIFY A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR H.N. & FRANCES C. BERGER FOUNDATION'S RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE THOUSAND PALMS FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify a letter of support for the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation's Reconnecting Communities Program funding request.

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 is September 28, 2023.

The Berger Foundation, County of Riverside, and Coachella Valley Water District are jointly applying for grant funding for the Thousand Palms Flood Control Project and have sought letters of support from local agencies, including the City of Palm Desert. In City staff's opinion, upstream improvements in the Thousand Palms area would help relieve the mid-valley channel by reducing the flooding across the I-10 and entering the channel.

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 related to issuance of this letter.

ATTACHMENT:

Letter of Support
